IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 3241

International Court of Justice

H3241 - 0002

USA 654

CERTIFICATE

****

I, Carl R. Blumenstein, 1st Lt. AC, Chief, Field Branch, Documentation Division, do hereby declare that the document known as: U S A Exhibit No. 654 (also by the OCC designation as 2828 -PS), is a true reproduction of an interrogation report originationg from the "Ashcan" Detention Center, covering the dates of June 2 to 26 , 1945, said interrogations being performed by representatives of SHAEF and US Group Control Council teams. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the original of this document is to be found in the office of the AC of S, G-2 , USFET.

Nurnberg, 9 May 1946

Carl R. Blumenstein

CARL R. BLUMENSTEIN,
1st Lt. , AC
Chief, Field Branch
Documentation Division

H3241 – 0003

SECRET

SECRET

Document No. 2828 PS

FUNK

SECRET
AUTH: CG, US Gp CC
INIT:
DATE: 21 July 45

SPECIAL DETENTION CENTER "ASHCAN"

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD OF FINANCIAL INTERROGATIONS OF

Hermann Goering

Walther Funk

Schwerin von Krosigk

Hans Lammers

2828 PS

NOTE: These interrogations were conducted by Major Hiram Gans, Financial Branch, G-5, SHAEF, on June 2, 3, and 4, and by Mr. Clifford J. Hynning, Finance Division, US Group CC (Germany), and Lt. Herbert Dubois, Financial Branch, G-5, SHAEF, on June 25, and 26, 1945

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 654
Filed Jan 11, 1946

A004038

SECRET

S E C R E T

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
2 June 1945

Q: What is your full name?

A: Hermann Wilhelm Goering.

Q: Date of your birth and where?

A: January 12, 1893 in Rosenheim, Bavaria.

Q: Have you ever used any other names?

A: One day during 1938 and 1939 in Monaco, San Remo, Italy used alias for one afternoon. Do not remember the name used. I did not want to be recognized as Marshal Goering.

Q: What was your address before this?

A: Berchtesgaden, Karinhall near Berlin - Bad Veldestein - Nurnberg. Berlin, Leipziger Platz 3.

Q: Did you have any apartments anywhere else?

A: No other apartments - Schloss Mauetemdorf in Austria.

Q: Are those all at the present time?

A: I have named all places since 1930 where I have lived.

Q: When and where did you live in Sweden?

A: 1925-1926 - 1920 -- Stockholm.

Q: Where did you live in Paris?

A: Quai D'Orsay.

Q: Where does your present wife live?

A: Fischorn near Zellam See in Austria.

Q: What kind of home is she living in and who owns it?

A: Americans assigned them to quarters under American protection.

Q: Where was your home before Hitler came into power? Before 1930?

A: In Berlin in a home owned by the Reich.

Q: Where did you live from 1930 to 1933?

A: Berlin - Kaiserdamm - now bombed out.

Q: What was your first wife's name?

A: Baroness Karin von Fock, born in Stockholm.

Q: Do you have any cards of identity?

A: No.

S E C R E T

H3241 - 0004

H3241 - 0005

Q: Do you have any passports or visas?

A: I have a diplomatic passport. An ordinary passport was used when I went to Sweden which was in my own name.

Q: Do you have a passport with a photo of your first wife?

A: No.

Q: What is your present wife's name?

A: Emmy, Nee Sonnemann.

Q: What name did she use in the theater?

A: She always used the same name.

Q: Has she any other names?

A: No, but she has been married before.

Q: What was her other married name?

A: Koestlin.

Q: Was your first wife ever married before?

A: Yes, her other name was Baroness Kantzow.

Q: Have you any bank accounts or property in any names mentioned?

A: No - all property and accounts are in my own name.

Q: What are the names of your children?

A: I have one child - Edda - 7 years old.

Q: Is there any property in your wife or child's name?

A: It belongs to them and is property given to them by me.

Q: What bank accounts and banks did you use?

A: DeutscheBank - August Thyssen - both in Berlin. For private accounts.

Q: Where these the only banks used?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have any other accounts under any other names?

A: I did not use any other names. Everything is under my own name.

Q: What about property owned in other countries?

A: None.

Q: What were your relations with Kurt Lange, Vice President of the Reichsbank?

A: None.

A0946

H3241 – 0006

Q: Was he a friend of yours?

A: No, but I knew him.

Q: Did you know him as a flyer in the last war?

A: I heard but never knew it before.

Q: How did Lange get the job at the Reichsbank?

A: The President of the Reichsbank can answer that much better.

Q: Didn't you recommend him for the position?

A: I OK'd it.

Q: Was this before his employment?

A: I do not know the exact time. I passed on it as I was chief of the Four Years' Plan.

Q: Did you have a confidential secretary?

A: Col. von Brauchitsch - military attache - personal adjutant. Gisela Limberger (Secretary)

Q: Where does she live?

A: I do not know.

Q: What city?

A: Berlin.

Q: Who was in charge of your personal affairs?

A: There was one office with the adjutant, secretary and 4 adjutants.

Q: Who are they?

A: Lt. Col. Teske, Major Nuella, Capt. Klass and Groenert - Ministerialrat Air Transport. They were the head of the whole thing.

Paul Koerner was the Under-Secretary of the Four Years' Plan, Von Jagwitz - had been in the Four Years' Plan organization. Was for many years in the Ministry of Economics. The head of the Four Years' Plan made use of the various ministries as he needed them.

Q: Ware there any representatives of your own?

A: The head of the Four Years' Plan could give direct orders to anyone.

Q: Who were your agents in the Four Years' Plan?

A: The ministers themselves.

Q: Who acted as intelligence for you?

A: No one.

A. 094641

Q: Who in the Air Ministry represented you?

A: As head of the Air Ministry I represented myself.

Q: Who was second in command - your adjutant?

A: Field Marshal Milch.

Q: What was Westring's position?

A: Industrialist as far as I know in aluminum

Q: Did he act as Air Ministry's special agent or Deputy?

A: No, I think his position was in procurement. He was working in the Air Ministry on procurement of aluminum for all.

Q: Who was Kaltenberg?

A: He was Director of the Junkers Works. He left that and got into something else.

Q: Did Westring take his place?

A: No - not sure - I do not wish to make a statement.

Q: Who has acted for you in Sweden for the last 4 or 5 years?

A: No one except the German Emmissary there. The last time I was there was in 1933.

Q: Have you had any correspondence with people since?

A: Yes, with relatives there.

Q: What are the names of the relatives?

A: I do not want to give their names without their permission as they are neutrals and do not want to be drawn into this.

Q: How are they related?

A: Through my first wife.

Q: Have you any relatives of your own there?

A: No.

Q: Just relatives of your first wife?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you had correspondence with them?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you sent them gifts?

A: I refuse to give this information. Give my word that I did not send money for wife and child.

Q: Do you know Gabel?

A: He belongs in the Ministry of Economics for Prussia. He is head mining civil service mining man.

A 094042

H3241 - 0007

Q: Was he a party member before 1933?

A: No.

Q: Did you have connections with Dr. Bothe, Amtsrat at RWM? He was refront for trade with Sweden?

A: There are about 30,000.

Q: The one in charge of imports and exports with Sweden?

A: There were two, one in the Foreign Office and one in Economics. I know nothing officially at all.

Q: Did they send jewels and other things in diplomatic pouches?

A: Not as far as I know.

Q: Did works of art come in this way?

A: No. Pictures were bought outside and brought in.

Q: By diplomatic pouch?

A: No. There was something about this on the radio.

Q: Who had charge of your personal check book?

A: My secretary and myself.

Q: Who had charge of expenses of various homes? Did your secretary?

A: No.

Q: Who did that?

A: If they were personal she did but the appropriate office would take care of the others.

Q: Who had charge of the expenses of Karinhall?

A: Ministry for Air and Ministry of State.

Q: How were funds transferred for the purchase of a picture?

A: Just sent the cash.

Q: What about the conversion of the money?

A: That was all taken care of.

Q: Did you ever pay by check?

A: Always paid in cash.

Q: In Reichsmarks?

A: Since 1939 I always paid in marks. Before the war in cash of that country.

Q: Where did you get the cash?

A: Always took enough money along on the train. Had a private train. I was the second man in Germany and always had plenty of money. I would give an order to the Reichsbank and they would get the money. I had to OK the order myself.

A 094643

H3241 – 0008

Q: Could you get all foreign exchange this way?

A: Yes, I was the last court of appeal.

Q: Was there a regular procedure and a record made?

A: It was just a matter of getting permission and in my case there was no question.

Q: Do you know anything about the Melmer accounts in the Reichsbank?

A: No, the name does not mean a thing to me. I controlled foreign exchange in the Four Years' Plan and blocked a lot of foreign exchange but never went into details.

Q: Do you know Max Heiliger?

A: No.

Q: Was SS loot deposited under what name?

A: I know nothing about this and give my word of honor. The SS is in a world of its own.

Q: Did you start the SS?

A: No.

Q: Wern't you in it before Himmler?

A: Himmler was the Chief.

Q: Wasn't the SS started in 1932 or 1933 and Himmler came into it in 1934?

A: I had gone in the middle 20's and when I came back it was started up.

Q: Were you the head?

A: No. I was head of the SA in 1922-23.

Q: Did Himmler ever become head of the SA?

A: No.

Q: Do you know Rosenberg?

A: His staff worked on the cultural thing.

Q: What was his principal job as far as you were concerned?

A: He secured all things of culture, art and valuables.

Q: Did they acquire works of art which you purchased?

A: No. There were 2 commissions, the Rosenberg staff and the Jewish commission. They worked in combination with the French and confiscated all property. The French were supposed to take half and the Germans the other half. Hitler would sometimes see a picture of something he wanted and would get it. I worked to get things for a museum in Lintz. Also for my own collection in Karinhall. I did not collect all for myself but for the museum.

H3241 – 0009

Q: What agency was used for locating foreign exchange?

A: The Four Years' Plan spread out over the occupied areas. All foreign exchange was reported in and it was their job to find it.

Q: Did the Rosenberg agency collect items which you selected?

A: I told them what I was interested in.

Q: Did you point out the pictures you wanted?

A: They would usually tell me what was wanted by Hitler and what was left I would buy if the price suited me. Prices were set by a French professor.

Q: Were there many occasions when the price was too high?

A: Yes, Hitler took many pictures from me when he saw them.

Q: Where did Hitler's pictures go?

A: They were supposed to go to Linz. I have described where they are located.

Q: What about the jewels - where are they?

A: These things went straight to the German Ministry and were evaluated there.

Q: Where did you purchase jewels?

A: Cartiers in Paris.

Q: Where are they now?

A: Handed some out. They were bought privately. Some are with me. I had the right to go to a store and buy what I wanted. In Paris the people ran after me to buy.

Q: Where are your private jewels?

A: I would like to know myself.

Q: Where did you leave them?

A: I was restricted to quarters at the time and my special train was plundered.

Q: Were there works of art on the train?

A: Everything was being brought from Berlin.

Q: Who was in charge of the train?

A: I was restricted and do not know. On April 23rd the SS arrested me. There was a bombing attack on 25th of April on Berchtesgaden. From that time on I do not know who was in charge. The things on the train were under guard up to that time.

Q: Was Hoffer in charge?

A: He handled the works of art and knew in what car things were.

A0.345

H3241 - 0010

Q: What about Dr. Lohse?

A: He was on the staff of Rosenberg. They had no art specialist and this man was one. He was relieved by me from the Air Ministry as the Army would not relieve anyone.

Q: Did Dr. Lohse buy a library of books for you?

A: Possibly.

Q: Did he buy a whole library in 1942?

A: Yes as I was interested in all art categories and bought when I could.

Q: Who was Heidel?

A: He was a big art dealer - he bought, exchanged and sold.

Q: Did you deal directly with Heidel?

A: Either straight with him or with Hoffer. Hoffer would do most of the buying.

Q: Did you ever go to Switzerland?

A: Not since 1929.

Q: Ever been there since?

A: No.

Q: Did you ever buy works of art in Switzerland?

A: Hoffer did.

Q: Did you ever make any other purchases in Switzerland?

A: Did not buy any jewels there. Had purely private affairs in Switzerland.

Q: What were these private affairs?

A: I do not know if I have to answer that.

Q: Why not?

A: I would not ask you these things.

A-034346

H3241 - 0011

282805

SECRET (Goering)

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
3 June 1945

Q: Were you ever given an estate?

A: Yes, from the Bavarian State in 1933-34 in reparation for what the State took away from me in 1923. It belongs to me. It may have been bombed out.

Q: Were you arrested on the 23rd of April?

A: There was an order from General Jodl, Chief of the Operations Staff, that I should take over as Hitler could no longer get out of Berlin. This was not an order describing what happened in Berlin. Got the order to Lammers, Chief of the Reichs Chancellory and he decided to query the order and sent it back. There was a time limit put on it and quick action was necessary and it was not known whether it would get through. Then to clarify my position I sent a radio message to all different outlaying places that I had done this. If it was to their favor they should report in. I believe that in the Chancellory in Berlin Hitler was no longer in command but that Bormann was and he changed things to suit himself and issued the order for my arrest. Lammers also was to be arrested. I was arrested along with all of my adjutants.

Q: Were you arrested by the SS?

A: Yes, there was an SS guard unit (Wachsinheit) on the Obersalzberg which was the party under Bormann's influence. He was administrative head.

Q: Were you removed from command?

A: I was put in a room with an SS guard at the door and an officer in the room with me. On the next day a telegram came re the question of taking over the command. The measures I had taken were treason to the Germans and the party and the penalty was death but because of my great services, this penalty would be lessened and simply deprive me of being Commander in Chief of the Air Corps. It did not mention any of the other things I was head of.

Q: Did you receive notice that you were relieved from all military office?

A: Yes, but I was still Reichsmarshal.

Q: Is this a military title?

A: Yes. It was a title, not an office. I will always maintain this title.

Q: Is the title an honorary title?

A: Yes - originally there were only Field Marshals but as other Generals were promoted, they created the rank of Reichsmarshal. It was the only one of its kind except the one given to Prince Eugene of Savoy who fought for Austria.

Q: It was no military rank?

A: It was the highest military rank but not an office.

Q: Do you have the right to give orders?

A: No - no orders could be given as Reichsmarshal. A Field Marshal cannot be retired - a General can be retired and a Reichsmarshal cannot be retired. They have the rank for all times and for life. This was a critical point when I left Berlin. If I had been granted authority to replace Hitler, I had also asked for permission to deal and negotiate.

A 034647

H3241 - 0012

This was the cause of the reaction on the part of Bohrman. Hitler was against the word negotiate and would never negotiate. Hitler was very sensative and reacted very quickly. Hitler feared I might be negotiating via Sweden. The word negotiate was watched very closely.

Q: Does a Reichsmarshal draw any money for that position?

A: As long as the war continued there was an income but the income after the war had not yet been decided upon. There would have been a salary if the war had been won by the Germans.

Q: What was your relation with I. G. Farben? Did you ever hold a meeting in your home?

A: I know Schmitz. Had no relations other than social. Krauch was in the Four Year Plan in synthetic oil and chemicals. He was once a Director of I. G. Farben and I took him into the Four Year Plan. He was a chief advisor and also chief in an executive position.

Q: Did you have any connection with Schnitzler?

A: No.

Q: Weren't you present at a meeting when the party was in need of funds and Farben was represented?

A: I was present at a meeting before 1938 where Hitler made a speech to the industrialists at Dusseldorf. At that time the industrialists became in favor of the Nazi Party. There never was a meeting where they said come across.

Q: Were the meetings at your home purely social?

A: They all went through my house socially before the war but not much after the war.

Q: At one gathering didn't you request certain contributions be made to the party?

A: I did not invite people to my home and then pass the plate or hat. There was made a slush fund put at Hitler's disposal. Bormann was in charge of the fund. It was large but I do not know how large. The fund was subject to Hitler's approval. There was a second fund set up for industries for workers.

Q: Did you ever have any correspondence re the fund?

A: No personal correspondence and if there ever was any Bormann would not let me see it.

Q: Would the fund be collected by inviting people to the house and would they make a statement or would they give as they could?

A: They signed for so much voluntarily. In 1933 production jumped so that there was no need for pressure. Bormann had a list of what had been contributed and by whom. The curve went up - everyone had jobs and a shortage of labor developed.

Q: What was responsible for increased need for labor?

A: Construction and re-armament in 1933, autobahns. The actual production of armaments began later but preparation, production of steel, coal and autobahns began in 1933.

Q: On Feb. 20, 1933 was Hitler present at a meeting at your home? What about this?

A 094818

H3241 - 0013

A: Cannot remember. Hitler was always present at large parties for a short while. I could probably work this out on paper by thinking.

Q: Wasn't Hitler at a meeting at which they requested funds for the party?

A: Never requested funds at a party in my home. Before 1933 I talked to individuals and asked them to support the party. After this it was no longer necessary.

Q: Did you have any business interests in 1932?

A: No, returned from exile. In 1927 I was agent for a Swedish parachute production company. Gave it up in 1928.

Q: Any business interests between 1928 and 1933?

A: No.

Q: What was the name of the parachute company?

A: Refused to answer this question as Sweden is neutral.

Q: This was a private business and you were interested in it?

A: If I name the firm I want to be sure the firm does not suffer on account of it.

Q: It may be that you will suffer more.

A: I would like to know my legal status on this question.

Q: We want to know the name of every firm with which you did business - private business.

A: The name of the company was the Lundholm Parachute Company.

Q: Weren't you interested in the Svenska Luft traffic?

A: In 1920.

Q: Was this interest at the time of your marriage?

A: Before.

Q: Were you only interested in it one year?

A: Yes.

Q: What did you do after this?

A: Returned to Germany.

Q: Were you married at the time you returned to Germany?

A: Was married in 1923.

Q: Was it in 1922 you became party leader of the SA?

A: Dec. 1922.

Q: Was it Dec. 1922 you began making donations to the party?

A: Didn't have anything to donate.

Q: How did you support yourself?

A: From an income.

H3241 - 0014

Q: Income from what?

A: I had inherited money from my father which I invested in Sweden and Denmark and was living on the income from it. Sold pianos and piano motors in Denmark of German make.

Q: Did you have an office in Germany?

A: Lived at a hotel there.

Q: You had investments in Denmark?

A: Through the bank only.

Q: How did you live on the income?

A: It was a revolving capital. Funds were deposited in the bank and drawn as needed. The money from my father stayed in Germany and I lived on what I made outside.

Q: Did you have money in Finland?

A: No, no other money outside of Germany.

Q: Could you declare yourself a poor man?

A: I do not know what is left - I do have property.

Q: Do you have any liquid assets? Is everything you have in someone's hands?

A: I have no control over anything.

Q: You have nothing unless someone releases it to you? You have nothing hid in a cave?

A: No, nothing.

Q: Do you know anything about a small hunchback man who had to do with foreign exchange in Berlin?

A: No, was he in the black market?

Q: No, he was in legal business.

A: I do not know this man. I dealt only with the head or sub-head. If I needed anything in the way of cash my staff took care of it.

Q: After the putsch in 1923 did you leave Germany?

A: Yes.

Q: Where did you go?

A: Innsbruck, as I was badly wounded. Then to Venice, to Rome and back to Venice.

Q: How long were you in Innsbruck?

A: Until June 1924.

Q: How long were you in Italy?

A: To the spring of 1925 - from there I went to Sweden.

Q: Were you working in Italy?

A: No.

A 094050

H3241 - 0015

H3241 – 0016

Q: How did you live?

A: Had money with me and was invited by Germans in Venice.

Q: Who?

A: A Mr. Walter in Venice.

Q: What was his full name?

A: I do not know.

Q: What was his business?

A: Hotel business. Hotel Britannica.

Q: Did you live there during your stay in Venice?

A: Yes. Also went to Rome for two or three weeks.

Q: Whomdid you see in Rome?

A: Mussolini and other fascists.

Q: Then you went back to Venice?

A: Yes

Q: Where?

A: To the same hotel.

Q: Where did the money come from to go to Sweden?

A: My wife sold the estate in Munich and I got the money.

Q: I thought the estate was forfeited in 1923?

A: No, just the auto and some clothing and a few personal items not worth much.

Q: They didn't take the home in Munich?

A: No.

Q: Was it in your name all the time?

A: Yes.

Q: Why didn't they take it?

A: They could not take it legally.

Q: Didn't they accuse you of treason?

A: No, the police simply took personal stuff.

Q: The state didn't confiscate personal property?

A: Just the car.

Q: Did the state ever confiscate the property?

A: They had no reason to.

Q: Why did they give you some property - was it in return for what they had confiscated?

A 094051

H3241 - 0017

A: It was just a lodge on a mountain not worth much. Just a piece of land and had no use. No real buildings on it.

Q: How much land?

A: 50 x 50 meters at the most - 160 ft. small lot.

Q: How big was the house you built on it?

A: It was a small Bavarian country home. Later they put an air raid shelter in. This was done by part of the administrative group. I had nothing to do with it.

Q: Wasn't there any more land given you?

A: I do not think there was actually as much as I said.

Q: Did you buy more land?

A: No.

Q: Did you have an account in the Bank of the German Luftwaffe?

A: No personal account.

Q: What kind of an account did you have?

A: A disposal account as Commander-in-Chief of the German Air Corps. It was paid into by various air industries but was not used. It was at my disposal to pay out money to individuals of the air corps who needed money.

Q: Would the private companies make deposits to this account?

A: Yes, to be used after the war.

Q: It was not used?

A: No.

Q: Was there any specific amount each company gave?

A: Completely voluntary. Some gave and some didn't.

Q: About how much did they give as for a year altogether?

A: The amount was not given each year. I do not know very much about it. The total sum was not much - about one million marks - not over that.

Q: What was the name under which the account was kept?

A: I do not know as I did not administer it. It was in Berlin and the Russians have it now. It was not used.

Q: Were there any other accounts of this nature which you could dispose of?

A: No. Each commander had a special bank account on which he could draw. Money was given in by the State. Expenses of the Headquarters were taken care of.

Q: You had no other accounts or gifts given to you by industrials or others?

A: Not money. Received gifts for my birthday. People know about my art collection and I got works of art.

Q: Who were some of the people who gave large gifts most frequently?

A: Fritz Thyssen has given things. I know him for years before 1933. He was my personal friend.

Q: What other people were accustomed to giving you gifts frequently?

A: I refuse to answer and refer to the Articles of War.

Q: Exactly how?

A: In the Articles of War it says I do not have to give out information at an interrogation which incriminates anyone.

Q: You do not intend to give the names?

A: These are the most private things in Germany. I will only answer when it concerns me specifically. These things were given on the basis of friendship. I also gave private gifts as well.

Q: There is nothing stated in international law that you cannot talk about friendships.

A: The things that are said may be a disadvantage to the friends.

Q: What of it - that makes no difference.

A: I would like to have a little time to think it over.

Q: We will go on to something else, but you had better think it over, as we will come back to the subject. Have you traveled in Spain?

A: Was once in a Spanish harbor but did not leave the boat. It was a ship from San Remo, Italy and was only there for one-half hour.

Q: Where you ever in Portugal?

A: No.

Q: Have you ever been to South America?

A: I have never been to either one of the Americas.

Q: Give all the places you went abroad outside of Germany besides France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland.

A: Turkey, 1927, I think; Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia.

Q: Have you ever been to England?

A: Several times.

Q: When?

A: 1927-8 - The British passport bureau would know more about it. I was there not more than three times.

Q: How long were you there?

A: Six weeks or eight weeks - things go so far back that my memory fails.

Q: Did you ever keep a diary?

A: No.

Q: Did your Secretary keep one for you?

A: Yes a log and the Adjutant kept a log. I kept a diary in spots. The Adjutant kept one for the last years. It was in Berlin before we left.

A 094353

H3241 – 0018

They were burned in Karinhall which was where all the things were. It has been bombed out or demolished. My men or Russians did it as I gave the order that everything must be burned. The Russians came between Berlin and Karinhall. We had to make a run for it so I gave the order to burn everything and demolish the place if military conditions necessitated it.

Q: Did you remove the paintings?

A: There was a great deal of stuff burried there.

Q: Tell us where it is and we will get it.

A: I was told where it was burried and I saw where it was burried but it is difficult to try to get it. Also the Russians will not let you dig there. I have told before where it is. You must be very careful. There is nothing famous. The most famous was a Venus given by the Italian Government.

Q: Where else are things burried?

A: Everything else was in the train. It was supposed to be put into the air raid shelter in Berchtesgaden but the train was bombed and so was Berchtesgaden.

Q: Any gold?

A: No.

Q: Was anything else put in the mines?

A: No, just the gold you have already found. It wasn't mine.

Q: Is there any place where things of that nature were hidden?

A: The SS was a state within a state. They have things of their own. Even when my position was at its height, I never had any influence over the SS. I could not look at the SS.

Q: Did you found the Gestapo?

A: I founded it originally as a copy of other State Police and solely to combat communists. Then within a few months I had to turn it over to Himmler. He developed it from that day on.

Q: Why did you have to turn it over to Himmler?

A: Hitler's orders. The police was the first thing in Germany made for the whole state, for the Reich itself, under centralized control and this was under Himmler. My Gestapo was just for the Prussian State.

Q: Did your separate from the other when it was turned over?

A: No, there were twelve officials of the Gestapo to protect him and watch me. Himmler ordered almost immediately that all prominent officials in the Government have protection. These officials followed me wherever I went, especially in crowds.

Q: Were you ever connected with any other aviation company besides the ones in Sweden?

A: The Swenska Luft Traffic in 1920.

Q: In 1925 were there any other?

A: Went to Italy in the spring and had nothing to do there.

Q: How long were you in Sweden that time?

A004354

H3241 - 0019

A: Two and a half years.

Q: Do you have a step-son?

A: Yes.

Q: What is his name?

A: Thomas Von Kantzow. His mother and father were divorced but the father was still alive.

Q: Did he live with your first wife?

A: He alternated between his father and mother.

Q: Did you enter an institution in 1925?

A: Yes, A sanitorium in Sweden.

Q: How long were you there?

A: Four weeks.

Q: Did you return to Germany when you came out?

A: No.

Q: Did you have any business affairs?

A: A year and a half I did nothing; second year and a half I was in the parachute business and also wrote articles for the Swedish press.

Q: Did you write for Avelog?

A: Later. I also had books printed. Published a periodical called "Four Year Plan". Also wrote "Birth of a Nation" for England. Also wrote for American papers and was very well paid.

Q: What about "Germany Reborn"?

A: This was the same as "Birth of a Nation".

Q: Is it an autobiography?

A: Not in a style but indirectly it is. It was written from the time of the Versailles Treaty.

Q: When was it written?

A: 1934 or 1935 - during the first years after Hitler took over.

Q: Was it just written or was it published?

A: It was published immediately. I dictated the whole thing in 24 hours and this was done because I had a contract that could not break it.

Q: Did you have an interest in Avelog?

A: No, except for his books.

Q: Do you own any publishing houses?

A: No. We could only buy stock of a company belonging to the State. The State got very involved in taking over firms and the State hold a majority of the stock. Employees of the State could buy that stock. They could not buttinto privately-owned companies.

Q: Was there any law against it?

H3241 – 0020

A: Hitler said that they should not do it. The Reichstag members were not supposed to unless they owned the factory.

Q: Is that how you acquired the Hermann Goering works?

A: When I got the Four Year Plan and checked over the basic industries, coal, iron, etc., I found out that we were very dependent outside of Germany in iron. My job in the Four Year Plan was to create a self-supporting country in raw materials as well as foodstuffs. I knew there was plenty of iron ore available in Germany but was much poorer than that of Sweden. The capitalists wanted good ore from Sweden and not a low quality for the blast furnaces. I called on all the steel manufacturing people. I gave them one year in which to exploit them. The large ones were at Salzgitter near Amberg; smaller ones in Wurttenberg. After one year they just hadn't done anything worth while. Scientists were wrong in their statements so the okay was given to me to go ahead. Thereupon I built the largest steel mill - an American Company - Brassert - Anglo American. Another big one was built in England and copied ours.

Q: Whose funds?

A: Not mine, of course, as it cost several billion. You think too much of me.

Q: Didn't you have several million in art works?

A: That would have been a small percentage of the cost.

Q: Who put up the money?

A: The State and stocks were sold to the public.

Q: Did you buy the stock?

A: I couldn't appeal to others and not buy myself.

Q: How much did you buy?

A: It is difficult to estimate; perhaps from 40 thousand up to 130 thousand. Began with 40 thousand definitely - 40 thousand marks worth.

Q: How much percent?

A: Almost nothing - it was a drop in the bucket.

Q: How much was the capital total stock?

A: I do not know but the Ministry of Finance does.

Q: Who handled that?

A: Paul Ploiger. I am not a money man or a business man. I would not know how to file in a stock company. I was just an organizer. Everything was done by the Finance Ministry.

Q: As the company expanded was it always held by the Reich?

A: Actually a small percentage of the stock went into private hands. The Salzgitter was the first - then built the Hermann Goering Works in Linz. Wanted Amberg ore with steel and iron. Then we obtained Ezeberg in Austria - main source of Austrian ore. The ore in Salzgitter had acid in it and the others were free of acid but as a base the combination of the two made a good mix for the blast furnaces. The Ruhr industries were obligated to take certain percent of Salzgitter ores.

A094356

H3241 - 0021

Q: What do you mean obligated?

A: It was forced upon them by the State in interest of national autocracy. The Ruhr returned coal north to Salzgitter. The H.G. Works were maintained on a competative basis so that the State did not have to put in funds. But the business of exchanging iron ore for coal made them completely dependent on the Ruhr coal mines. So we bought all the coal mines so that they could compete.

Q: Did the State buy the mines?

A: The Stated owned a lot of mines already. The Prussian State was the largest owner of mines. The H.G. Works were not completed. Otherwise it wouldhave been the biggest iron and steel producing combination in the world. Once they got the basis of coal in the Ruhr, they had to get a transportation system set up, so a shipping concern was created.

Q: What was the name of that?

A: Prussian State Owner of Inland Waterways and Shipping. It was turned over to the H.S. Works. Therefore pressure was put on to completing the Rhine/Danube Canal to get it done. This was still on a competitive basis and I was creating a whole new thing from the source of the sale. I had to go into steel and iron fabricating industries. Wanted to build one building yard but it could not be done. The Rhine Metal was then taken over by the State; next to Krupp Works this was the biggest.

Q: What year?

A: Do not know. We wanted to get together and build another at Salzgitter as Krupp was too near the border. Army put it into Austria. Then we bought the majority of stock of Skoda in Pilsen, Arumms Works at Brno and many small factories. I was the organizer and the policy making details were done by people below.

Q: Who handled the details?

A: Ploiger. The works were divided up into the mining section; production section and transportation. The companies were acquired and were left as they were, only I located their control and influenced them. They kept their original parts. I had nothing to do with the founding of these firms. Hermann Goering Works is the name of the firms actually founded (Reichswerke Hermann Goering). If the thing had been carried through to completion, they would build up the area of Salzgitter to a city called the H.G. City. The population would have been 300,000 - very large. Salzgitter first had a population of 60,000 or 70,000.

Q: Were there any banks or banking institutions in the H.G. organization?

A: No. Banks would not have anything to do. No banking institutions.

Q: Were there any chemical works?

A: Brux Synthetic Oil Works. Czech company.

Q: Was there competition with I.G. Farben?

A 034657

A: Yes.

Q: Who developed the process?

A: New Process. Generating gas from tar products derived some sort of fuel and this fuel was to save gas by-products. All gas would have been available for planes.

Q: How close were you tied up with I.G. Farben? Were both controlled by the Reich?

H3241 - 0022

H3241 - 0023

A: Many new things were developed. Made several deals with I.G. Farben and Krauch of the four year plan would know about this.

Q: Did I.G. Farben control many patents in use by various firms? Did you let out patents?

A: During the war we generally exchanged patents.

Q: Did you exchange patents outside Germany?

A: I do not know. There were Borgius - Fischer - Tropsch methods for making gas from coal. Bruex had a new method.

Q: What was this method?

A: I do not know. They used some gas from coke by-product.

Q: Who would know these things in the H.G. Works? What are the various organizations who did technical work?

A: I was the nominal head - Ploiger was general director of the Division of Traffic and Transportation. Dichls was in the last few weeks but left and there was no new man to replace him. Ploiger worked directly through the staff. Grutzbach worked on other firms. I made policies and worked with Ploiger. Ploiger was the most important man. He had the real H.G. Works in his control and he took care of transportation. Through his discretion appointments were made. He never took care of policy methods as he was a specialist.

Q: Where did Ploiger live?

A: Westphalian by birth. He was mostly at Salzgitter and was quite well known there.

Q: Does he live there now?

A: If he didn't get caught by the Russians he is there now. The Russians were always trying to get him. From the time the Russians got to the Oder, they had special interest in certain people. Up to 1900 Russia and Germany were very close. The German officers corps had great respect for Russians and always saw them at their very best at St. Petersburg. When the war came we got together immediately. Then when they got a little power things went the other way and we were kept back. There was a brief treaty in 1939. We have always been scared of the Russians and feared them. It was a very odd situation and when they got to the Oder they made all sorts of promises. They dropped a lot of papers with what apparently was very clever propoganda and their point of view seemed to change which was well shown when they got to Berlin. In Berlin they captured the majority of leading Germans in all fields of science, etc.

Q: Did you get a salary as head of the H.G. Works?

A: Not a penny.

Q: Did you have an account with the Reichskreditbank?

A: Charity fund, not personal.

Q: What was its nature?

A: It was from 10 marks to 1,000 to take care of the people.

Q: In whose name?

A: Weltzeirs had been with me in the last war. He made money and wanted to give it to me for the Air Corps. This fund was made up.

Q: Was it put in his name?

A 094058

H3241 - 0024

A: He controlled it.

Q: What other funds did he control?

A: None. Military funds were secret. They were officially under my name, but with no control.

Q: Who would know officially?

A: Various people.

Q: Who?

A: I have already talked about this.

Q: Who had charge of the check book?

A: There was a small fund in the Air Corps Ministry. First under my name and was then turned over to the Ministry to give sums of money to people's families who were hurt or killed in action.

Q: What funds did you have control over?

A: I have named them.

Q: Personal accounts?

A: Deutsche Bank and Thyssen Bank.

Q: Does your wife have an account?

A: Only in the Thyssen Bank.

Q: Did you withdraw any money in April 1945 to send to any other bank?

A: I gave an order to send one- half million marks to a bank in southern Germany. If it had been done I would have been notified but I have never heard.

Q: What bank?

A: Left that up to the bank to pick whatever bank was best.

Q: What bank?

A: Left it up to the Thyssen Bank.

Q: Just to send the money out, how would they know?

A: I told them to notify me just as soon as the money went through.

Q: Were you always near the bank so they could let you know?

A: I told them to notify my office if I was not there.

Q: Did you have an account in the bank at Berchtesgaden.

A: No, just a small account while I was building the house. It was closed when the house was finished.

Q: Did you send an order that the money was being sent?

A: No, the bank was doing that.

A 094659

Q: Did you give your wife the right to use the account?

A: No, just gave the order to send the money. I too would like to know if it was sent.

Q: Did you ever give an order to any bank to deposit money against which your wife could draw?

A: In Berlin, of course.

Q: Not in Southern Germany or Austria?

A: No other place; only in Berlin.

Q: What bank in Berlin?

A: August Thyssen.

Q: Did you have control over your wife's funds?

A: No, it just isn't done.

Q: Isn't that German law?

A: It can be done. If you have very little you have a joint account; if you have a lot, separate accounts.

Q: Have you made a will?

A: I am doing that now but it isn't necessary as ultimately under the law everything will go to my child. If there is no child it is necessary to make a will.

Q: Have you made a will since your child was born?

A: No.

Q: What provisions were made for your wife?

A: She is included in the child's inheritance.

Q: Is there any provision to leave certain jewels or paintings?

A: I took out some small pictures which I gave as presents to my wife from time to time and they are listed in the will.

Q: Are you leaving anything to your secretary or friends?

A: The list has been settled and my wife is to take care of everything.

Q: Where is the list?

A: It was packed along with the library.

Q: Which place?

A: It was on the train. I had two trains with my headquarters on one of them. One train was protected in a tunnel along the side of the track. When things started the guards disappeared and a great many things were lost. Jewel cases were opened and the stones taken but the settings were scattered all around.

Q: Did you inspect the train?

A: An American officer told me about it.

Q: Papers were left in the train?

A: Yes.

Q: Your personal papers?

A: Yes.

A094360

H3241 - 0025

Q: Was Limburger there?

A: Yes, she was with the adjutants on the train in the office. But she left and I don't know when or where she went. The Moroccans came and all the women left.

Q: Were you relieved from arrest?

A: They took me to Austria with my family on the 4th or 5th of May after the bombardment. Air Corps troops were going through the town and freed me from the SS. Mauterndorf was the name of the town where the troops freed me.

Q: Do you have an inventory of your assets?

A: An inventory was made by Hoffer of art works. Everything was scattered all around the train and I do not know what was recollected. When Berlin was in danger the stock which it was not possible to get out was listed and the stock destroyed. We did not want the Russians to get them.

Q: Who made the lists?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: Were they moved to a safe place?

A: The Reichsbank did the work of listing - all banks gave lists. Funk knows about this. My wife stole some valuable rings the day before I was arrested and a car, Chrysler, with a chauffeur, Hegeler, and we are still looking for him.

Q: Do you have a personal lawyer?

A: No, always use the same man, Vom Berg, of Berlin, but he knows very little about me as I have only been to see him about five or six times in my whole life.

Q: Who handled money matters when you purchased something?

A: My secretary arranged everything with the bank. From 1929-43 my Secretary was Frau Von Kornatzky nee Gundtmann, who was very well known and was my private secretary. She died in 1943 and the other one took her place. When she died all sorts of people of importance attended the funeral as she was very popular.

Q: You have made out tax reports?

A: My secretary made them out.

Q: Did Limburger do this?

A: Yes.

Q: Who was Frau Darton?

A: I know a doctor by that name but did not know he was married.

Q: Who was he?

A: A doctor on my staff.

Q: Physician?

A: He was a military doctor, Oberfeldarzt (Lt. Col.)

Q: You know of no Frau Darton at the Jeau de Pomme?

A: No.

A 09861

H3241 - 0026

H3241 - 0027

Q: Do you know where the painting of Van Eyck's is, "Adoration of the Lamb?"

A: I was not very much interested in sacred pictures. It was not among my things. It is as scarce as hen's teeth.

Q: We know it is rare.

A: Heffer may know about it. I am very interested and would be interested to know about it. Where was it supposed to have been?

Q: It was taken out of Holland.

A: If it had gone through Paris, I would have known about it.

Q: Do you know Otto Firster?

A: No.

Q: Do you know Gustor Rucklotz? Art dealer?

A: No.

Q: Do you know Buchner?

A: Yes.

Q: Whom did you deal with in this connection?

A: No one - just went in and purchased things.

Q: Did you ever sell anything?

A: Bought and sold - Burla long before 1933. Bornheim's in Munich. It was an art firm and I bought things there.

Q: Did you sell anything?

A: No.

Q: How much did you spend on the art collection?

A: Bought well and exchanged even better; therefore, spent relatively little. Collection was made for the public.

Q: How much did you spend?

A: Heffer would know.

Q: Did you buy from private dealers or were the pictures confiscated from collections?

A: A high banker in Holland Died. He died when he went to England, his wife told me. When he landed he forgot something on the boat and went back on the ship - the hatches were opened and he fell in and was killed. This was in 1940 before Germany took Holland. The bank knew of my interest in art and they wanted to sell everything. I borrowed money to carry out the transaction but I was only interested in the pictures, the rest was sold and the house was taken over by Miedl. I borrowed the money to cover the entire demands of the bank and lawyers and gave it to Miedl on the condition that Miedl separate the pictures. Miedl bought the whole things.

Q: Do you have any insurance?

A: Some in Germany.

Q: What company?

A: Allians, Berlin.

A 034852

Q: One policy?

A: Also a fire policy.

Q: Does your wife have a policy?

A: No.

Q: Did you have anything for your child?

A: She gets something at the age of 20. You can have that too.

Q: We are not kidding - those are things you robbed from everyone else and we are going to see that they are restored. Most of those things were bought, yes, but at a price fixed by you.

A: It will be hard to find an art dealer or jeweler who says I fixed the price. There is nothing you can do.

Q: Didn't you organize to receive organizations for occupied territories?

A: No.

Q: Didn't you have the Government do it?

A: East organization.

Q: Who are Eisen and Rosenberg?

A: Two historians.

Q: Wasn't Rosenberg an officer of the Luftwaffe?

A: No.

Q: You never had this officer?

A: It is possible that a picture of his was in the collection.

Q: Didn't Rosenberg have the help and assistance of the Luftwaffe in this work?

A: I gave two art historians to help register.

Q: Didn't you also say it would be possible to remove very valuable cultural things from Jewish ownership out of their hiding places?

A: They were put away for safe keeping. Some sent to Paris.

Q: On what law?

A: An order which was signed by Hitler.

Q: You wrote it and he signed it?

A: I do not know. We talked it over with the French Government - Vichy Government.

Q: Have you any agency for locating foreign exchange?

A: Staffelt. His job was to look for anything that the Jews might have left behind. Those things were taken. If they were papers, they were taken to the Reichsbank; if art, it was taken to Paris. This was done in all countries.

Q: What was the Thurnie Agency?

A 09.853

H3241 – 0028

H3241 - 0029

A: Administrative job; German Military Administration in Paris.

Q: Did they have something to do with the collection of art from the Jews and safe deposit boxes?

A: Yes. Securities and works of art were registered after they were reported. If there was no question, the pictures went to Paris and the money to the Reichsbank. If there was any doubt, they stayed.

Q: What is your annual income?

A: 20,000 marks a month as Reichsmarshal;, 3,600 marks a month for being Commander-in-Chief of the Air Corps with subtracting taxes; 1,600 marks a month as President of the Reichstag. Also had my writing but there was no given amount. For all the books there was a profit of almost one million marks.

Q: Didn't it cost more than this to live?

A: A number of things were paid for. Berlin and Karinhall were supported by the State.

Q: Didn't you spend a large sum on pictures - more than you earned?

A: I had funds and endowments given for use in getting pictures and such.

Q: They are small things you can't remember?

A: Very small.

Q: Name them.

A: Endowment on 50th birthday. Endowment for Karinhall. Hitler gave me money for this.

Q: Who knows about the figures - Limburger?

A: I do not know if she does know or not.

Q: Who does know?

A: No one.

Q: Are your mother or father living?

A: No.

Q: Any brothers or sisters?

A: Yes.

Q: Names?

A: Half-brother in Wiesbaden who is 74 years of age named Maj. Wilhelm Goering - he long time retired. Prof. Dr. Heinrich Goering, eye doctor in Wiesbaden. Sister and brother long since dead.
Full sisters and brothers
Oldest brother, Karl, died in the last war. Sisters Olga and Paula - I do not know where they are - maybe with the Russians. Albert - he is in a camp but never was a party member.

Q: No one is going to touch your relatives. We do not operate that way.

A: The Americans may not hurt them, but the Russians will.

Q: We will be able to find out from someone else - it is very simple.

A 034084

A: Then it will not be on my conscience.

Q: Do you have relatives outside of Germany?

A: Not close relatives.

Q: How close?

A: Uncles and cousins.

Q: Where?

A: I do not know as I have had no connections with them.

Q: Do you know whether any party members sent funds abroad?

A: No, they would have have told me.

Q: Would you ever hear?

A: I believe this is primarily propaganda.

Q: Were you friendly with Himmler?

A: No. There was much jealousy. Himmler wanted the job as second in command and on the surface he was very careful but there was much propaganda against me which came from stories by Himmler. This was done to lower my prestige in Germany.

Q: Did you know him as an official outside of police work?

A: I know him as chief of the German Police, Ministry of Interior.

Q: How much did you know of Himmler's counterfeiting activities?

A: Only what I have heard on the radio. I do not know how he could have done it. I would like very much to know.

A-034815

H3241 - 0030

H3241 – 0031

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
4 June 1945

Q: Yesterday you said you would consider telling us where in Karinhall the things were buried. Where were they buried?

A: It is almost impossible to describe from here because the objects are spread and a chart would be very difficult to draw. If I were at the place I could point out the places but technically it is impossible to draw them.

Q: Is there a chart in existance?

A: No.

Q: Who else knows where these things are buried?

A: The soldiers who were with me and who did this under my instructions.

Q: Is there somebody we could take up to point out the place?

A: That is difficult to say. The guard was later sent to the Russian front and I do not know what became of the soldiers. Also I do not know what happened to the officer. I think that even if we had one of the soldiers it would be impossible as the Russians would not permit the digging up of anything without their getting it. I have the hope that at some later time we can get the things.

Q: What is the name of the officer?

A: Major.Frankenberg.

Q: What Regiment or outfit?

A: Panzer Corps - no further details known.

Q: Was he sent to the Russian front or to Russia?

A: Russian front - he reached that sector and underwent very heavy fighting.

Q: When was the material buried?

A: About the middle of April 1945. The objects could not be removed as they were too heavy and the Russians were spreading across the Oder. Most of the things which are buried have nothing to do with this whole matter and were personal things not acquired abroad.

Q: You also spoke yesterday of your first secretary. What was her age when she died?

A: She was in her 30's. She died of fish poisoning.

Q: Did you ever go to Ireland?

A: No.

Q: Would the office of the Four Years' Plan which approved foreign exchange transactions have to coordinate with the Ministry of Economics?

A: Yes, there was close coordination.

A 094866

Q: If you wanted to take money or foreign exchange was there a record made at the Ministry of Economics?

A: No, if I wanted foreign exchange I contacted the Reichsbank. The Reichsbank administered foreign exchange.

Q: Whomdid they permission from the Four Years' Plan or the Ministry of Economics?

A: No, normally in my case as in everyone else's, the Reichsbank obtained permission of the Reich Economic Ministry.

Q: When officials wanted foreign exchange personally, how did they go about it exactly?

A: Both in the case of ministers and persons requiring sums of normal size, the Reichsbank would obtain the permission of the Reichs Economic Minister; however, in the case of extremely large amounts often required by foreign ministers, my permission had to be obtained.

Q: Was there a regular form filled out in the first instance?

A: I assume so but when I was approached I was shown no form. When people came in in the course of regular business to tell me what requests had been received, they would state the name of who wanted the money, for what purchase and I would say yes or no.

Q: When you travelled abroad and wanted large amount of money how did you acquire it?

A: I never had an excessive amount. When I planned a trip, I figured out how much money I would need and added a little and requested foreign exchange and would remit to the Reichsbank the Reichsmark equivalent and would return what I did not use, I must point out that in some cases foreign exchange was very scarce. In the case of Italian, French and Dutch foreign exchange, there was always a sufficient amount. Swedish foreign exchange was very scarce. No one abroad wanted to take English pounds.

Q: What about U.S. dollars?

A: Sometimes they were very difficult to get. I recall when I was making a purchase in Turkey, they would not take dollars as they were no good to them. Turkey was not anxious to buy dollars as Turkey could not buy anything from the U.S. except arms and they had large orders on the books with little chance of getting delivery. Countries like France, Italy and all occupied countries would not accept dollars in payment.

Q: Do you have funds or property in Turkey?

A: No, I have answered that question for the loth time.

Q: Who would handle foreign exchange transactions for you when you were abroad?

A: My adjutant or secretary.

A 094867

H3241 – 0032

H3241 - 0033

Q: When you went abroad you said you always had a suitcase full of money and always had cash?

A: I was talking about lira in Italy as the rate was so low that it was necessary to carry a bag full of money with me. During the inflation if you wanted to buy something even in Germany or for travelling for 8 days, it was necessary to have a suitcase for the money.

Q: How about when you travelled in France?

A: In France I would go to the German Military Administration and they would give me any amount and Berlin would remit to them.

Q: How about travelling in Holland and Belgium?

A: Handled the same way.

Q: Was it the same in other foreign countries which were occupied?

A: No because they had no cash.

Q: What about Bulgaria and Roumania?

A: I have not been there during the war.

Q: How did you get money before the war?

A: I have been to Bulgaria and Roumania before the war.

Q: How did you get foreign exchange at that time?

A: Like everyone else, every private individual travelling abroad in peace time, I had enough foreign cash in my pocket to last the first few days; then I would use a letter of credit.

Q: What bank?

A: It is impossible to recall besides I didn't have the letter of credit, my adjutant had it.

Q: Was it on the Reichsbank and would other banks honor it?

A: I really do not know. I always had money in my pocket as every 3 or 4 days my adjutant would draw money. Presume money was issued by a bank. I think you are under the wrong impression. As a traveller I never had a pocket book. All matters were handled by my adjutant.

Q: Do you recall anything about Himmler's counterfeiting?

A: No, I am very interested to hear. Yesterday things were mentioned but I still deny knowing anything about them. I am particularly interested because Himmler was frequently requesting large sums of foreign exchange to be used abroad for the purpose of intelligence. If he counterfeited money he would not have told me. I think now after all the discussions with the Americans in addition to the sum found by the Devisenschutzkommando, whenever the Gestapo confiscated foreign exchange, contrary to instruction and the law, they did not surrender the money to the Reichsbank but kept the foreign exchange to themselves.

AC 3848

Q: Do you deny these things aren't true?

A: Himmler never told me.

Q: Did you trust the Luftwaffe?

A: Yes.

Q: Would anyone ever tell you if there was anything wrong between Himmler and any of them?

A: During the last few months there was a campaign by the Gestapo and the SS to breed distrust between the Luftwaffe and myself. They contacted especially the younger officers of the Luftwaffe and tried to make capital out of the fact that the Luftwaffe was able to do so little about the attacks made on Germany.

Q: Was there any part of the Luftwaffe that aided Himmler in secreting funds abroad?

A: No it was impossible because he had no direct influence; besides there was only one plane at Himmler's disposal and Himmler could give no direct orders. There were 3 or 4 planes which were not manned by Luftwaffe crews but by SS crews. These were the planes of the Fuhrer and Himmler. What he has done with these planes personnally I do not know but the Luftwaffe is out of the question. Himmler could not even give a direct order when an agent was to be dropped. There was a special section of the Luftwaffe which had to be notified as to the locality where the agent was to be dropped. It was only through this channel that Himmler could proceed on such matters.

Q: Were such agents dropped in South America?

A: We didn't get that far by plane. They were dropped in Africa, France, England and Russia. Even for this they had to use American apparatus as ours wouldn't go that far. Our material was used with German insignias on them. However, if Himmler wanted to take something abroad he was the only man who could do it because he was in charge of foreign intelligence which was everywhere in the neutral countries too. In that manner he was the only one who had such connections abroad. The man in charge of that branch was Schellenberg, a very well known title believed to be the SS gruppenfuhrer. Schellenberg has gone abroad.

Q: Where has he gone?

A: I have heard from my conrades around here that he has gone to a country in the north and I think possibly it is Sweden.

Q: Is there anyone else in Himmler's organization who handled foreign agents?

A: I do not know Schellenberg and I have never seen him. No outsiders knew anything about Himmler's organization. It will be necessary for you to interrogate a person in a high place in the organization to obtain such information. There were a large part of Intelligence asking about the Wehrmacht head by Admiral Canaris but after July 20th this function was assigned to Himmler and from then on it became a high secret organization. But even before that Himmler had a foreign department.

A 094869

H3241 - 0034

Q: Was Hans Thomsen in Himmler's organization?

A: Definitely he did not belong to the Himmler organization. Some in the organization were not generally known. The SS was endeavoring to get prominent people from industry, sciences, education and arts and granted them an honorary position within the SS. One day they were all sent SS uniforms and the next day everyone turned up in the uniforms. They gradually came under the SS influence. Thomsen was in a SS uniform due to such a thing as this. He definitely did not belong to the organization.

A 09-370

H3241 - 0035

S E C R E T

282805

INTERROGATION OF VON KROSIGK
4 June 1945

Q: What is your full name?

A: Lutz Graf Schwerin von Krosigk.

Q: When were you born?

A: 22 August 1887.

Q: Where?

A: Rathmansdorf, Anhalt.

Q: What is the office or position that you hold in the Reich Financial Ministry?

A: Reich Financial Minister.

Q: Do you hold any other positions?

A: On 2 May 1945 I was appointed Foreign Minister by Admiral Doenitz in the Provisional German Government.

Q: What is your address?

A: Berlin, Rheinbabenallee 23.

Q: Is that where your family lives now?

A: No. They have lived for the past 2 years in Hecklingen Anhalt. The family went to Anhalt after the apartment in Berlin was destroyed.

Q: Where do they live in Hecklingen?

A: They live on a farm near Hecklingen which is owned by my sister-in-law. The main owner is von Trother which is her name.

Q: Have you any other addresses?

A: No except for an old regular address in Berlin which was destroyed. Berlin, Thiel Allee 89. Berlin Dahl

Q: Have you ever lived abroad outside of Germany?

A: I studied as a young man in England. Spent 2 years at Oxford.

Q: How long have you worked in the Reich Finance Ministry?

A: Since 1920.

Q: What department did you work in?

A: I entered the Reparations Section until 1924 and then entered the Budgets Section and became Director of this Section in 1929. I think that was the date.

A09-371

Q: How long were you in the Section on budgets?

A: Until 1932, the year which began the Ministry under von Papen.

S E C R E T

H3241 – 0036

Q: Was that in connection with the Cabinet of Barons?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you remain Minister of Finance since 1932 without change?

A: There was no change.

Q: As Minister of Finance what is the approximate amount of Reichsmarks issued or in circulation?

A: Since April we lost in Berlin the picture of what was going on.

Q: Do you know up until that time?

A: 40 billion§

Q: Not more?

A: No. Note issue was on the Reichsbank. Also short-termed treasury bills.

Q: Only Reichsmarks - how much in Rentenmarks outstanding?

A: I can't tell exactly, 1 billion.

Q: Wasn't circulation about 50 billion Reichsmarks?

A: Funk specializes in this - he was President of the Reichsbank.

Q: Surely you know the circulation as Reich Finance Minister?

A: Yes, the marks being issued by the Reichsbank. They were lost in Economics and were not under me.

Q: Weren't you in close coordination?

A: In the last months we were not. There was a change since July 1944 - before that financial matters were somewhat stable. After July 1944 we lost the total.

Q: Do you mean that after the attempt on Hitler's life in July the currency people lost control of such things in circulation?

A: Not only the attempt at Hitler's life but also because of the military situation in the country.

Q: Into whose control did that go? Who took control and when were you no longer consulted?

A: Things were very much out of hand and after that time people did not go to banks and savings banks to deposit money and money had to be printed and circulation had to be increased.

Q: That I know. But you were still informed after July 1944 since circulation increased were you authorized or the banks told to issue?

---

§ von Krosigk later increased this figure to 60 billion, supra, p. 96.

A 03872

H3241 - 0037

H3241 - 0038

A: There was no other means to issue notes of the Reichsbank. Funk always kept me informed. There was no other possibility left but to issue notes. We lost control and we couldn't do anything else.

Q: Through the various methods of Funk didn't you finally get the figure of how much in Reichsmarks was issued, say each month?

A: I knew constantly up until July. In July 1944 the control became very disorderly and we had no other means and ceased to issue notes.

Q: What was the average monthly issuance before July 1944?

A: I do not wish to make a statement and would prefer to see the records.

Q: Where are the records?

A: They were in Berlin but they were taken to Mürnoik in Flensburg.

Q: Were they left there?

A: Yes.

Q: Would you say then that at the present time there are more than 50 billion Reichsmarks outstanding?

A: I shouldn't think so.

Q: Where were the notes printed?

A: In Berlin at the Reich Printing Works. This place was used most frequently but there were several other places. That was the reason Mr. Funk travelled south. He was trying to get notes printed as the printing works in Berlin was hit in one of the last raids.

Q: When was the printing works destroyed?

A: Sometime in March 1945.

Q: Up to that time most of the printing was done in the printing works in Berlin?

A: Yes.

Q: At what other places were notes printed?

A: Vienna; Munich, I think; Hamburg, very little; Linz, I think.

Q: Were any printed at Aldenberg?

A: None.

Q: Were any printed at Leipzig?

A: No, the works was destroyed.

Q: What about Dresden?

A: The works was destroyed.

A034873

H3241 – 0039

Q: Was the printing plant owned by the Reich, Reichsbank or were contracts given to private printers?

A: The Reichsdrückerei was the public place in Berlin and Vienna. Other places had merely private printing with with contracts from the Reichsbank.

Q: What was printed in Vienna?

A: Reichsmarks.

Q: Where were Rentenmarks printed?

A: In Berlin.

Q: After the printing works in Berlin was destroyed in March, was there a meeting to discuss where other notes should be printed or what should be done?

A: No, the question of printing was merely a technical problem of the Reichsbank.

Q: Who exercised control over the volume of marks issued?

A: Ministry of Economics.

Q: Did the Minister of Finance control note circulation?

A: No.

Q: If Economics wished to issue, you had no control?

A: If it was necessary to print more notes I was told to raise taxes; that way it was not necessary to issue many. I had no control.

Q: Were any instructions given for the local issue of currency in different places?

A: No, none from Berlin.

Q: Do you know whether there were local issues of currency?

A: I heard there was a local issue in Hamburg but I knew nothing about it.

Q: About what was the total of short termed treasury bills outstanding?

A: 200 billions.

Q: What was the average length of time?

A: 6 months

Q: What rate of interest?

A: About 3%.

Q: What about long termed notes?

A: 150 billions with interest at 3 1/2%. Long term notes were for 10 years. The short and middle began from 3 months to 4 years. There were all different types of notes. The rates of interest started at 2 1/2 % and went to over 3% for middle term. 3% was given as an average.

A09674

H3241 - 0040

Q: Long termed notes started at what percent?

A: 3 1/2% - the difference was not in the rate of interest but in the selling price.

Q: Approximately how did that run? What was the discount on short term, middle term and long term?

A: The issue price was 100 in the case of short and middle term notes. The average selling price for long term was 98 1/2. The selling prices ranged from 98 to 101 depending on the period of the long term loan.

Q: About what was the gross income of the Reich in the last year and the year before?

A: Between 40 and 50 billions.

Q: Can't you give a more exact figure?

A: We had income coming from customs and taxes that was about 30 billion. Also various incomes and revenues coming from railroad monopolies, profit of the Reichsbank, interest revenues from credits granted, which perhaps amounted to 10 billion.

Q: Was there any income from such a project as the Hermann Goering Works?

A: There was no net revenue because the subsidiaries needed it for building projects which exceeded any profit in the Goering Works.

Q: Did the state receive any other income, contributions or things like that for example from endowments, funds and securities? Did the state own securities?

A: This did not amount to anything.

Q: Then the items mentioned are practically the total income of the Reich?

A: During the war there was a revenue caused by contributions from the occupied territories.

Q: About how much was that?

A: In 1943 it was approximately 10 billion. In 1942 there was not so much because we did not occupy as many places but it was increased by the contributions made by Italy.

Q: How was the sum fixed and brought about?

A: Take for example France - France was told to contribute a certain sum but just how France internally raised that sum through loans and taxes was immaterial. As far as Germany was concerned they had to make that contribution.

Q: Who fixed the amount?

A: It was fixed between the Foreign Office and the Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht on the estimated basis on what the occupation costs amounted to.

A094675

H3241 - 0041

Q: How much more in excess of the estimated occupation costs was the amount fixed?

A: Sometimes the charge exceeded the actual occupation costs and they were sometimes less depending on the number of troops stationed in the occupied country.

Q: In France the occupation costs began in 1943 at 500 million francs a day?

A: Right.

Q: This was very much in excess wasn't it?

A: Not too large.

Q: About how much, 50%?

A: No, no. It difficult to state the amount of money as we could n.. r find out from the Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht the real amount of the costs of the occupation forces.

Q: Did you try?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you get refused?

A: I could not get the information.

Q: Do you know the amount of the occupation costs?

A: No, I was never able to get them.

Q: Who would know how the occupation costs were fixed? What minister might have been consulted?

A: The Foreign Minister and the Commander of the Wehrmacht. The Economics head had to say whether they thought it possible to raise such an amount in that country.

Q: About what was the total expenditure of the Reich during the last few years?

A: 80 to 100 billions.

Q: About what part of this was spent outside of Germany?

A: Naturally only that portion which related to the occupation troops abroad and of which I do not know the exact figure because the Supreme Commander never furnished a statement.

Q: How much was spent for imports from Sweden?

A: I had nothing to do with the Reich budget.

Q: You must know as Reich Minister?

A: I cannot tell the figures from memory.

Q: What extent of trade balance was there between the Reich Minister of Sweden?

A: I do not know.

A 094076

H3241 - 0042

Q: Would the Minister of Economics know?

A:: I am sure he would know.

Q: Did the Finance Ministry plan any part in foreign exchange transactions and on licensing?

A: It did not.

Q: What other duties did the Ministry of Finance have relating to budget and income?

A: They were in charge of the raising of taxes and was custodian.

Q: Under the Finance Ministry were decisions made concerning remittances of taxes to the lander and province, etc?

A: This was a joint task of the Ministries of Finance and Interior. On allocations to municipalities a certain percentage of taxes was raised and it was up to the Finance Ministry to make the decision. When it came to making subsidies from a common fund, the decision was up to the Finance and Interior Ministries.

Q: You said that you had records in Flensburg. What records were left there?

A: The most important records were there. I do not know how many were taken.

Q: For how long a period of time?

A: Especially the last year. This spring there was a new tax estimate. For justification of the new tax estimate they submitted tax figures of the last 5 years. Records of expenditures would also be there.

Q: About how large was the volume?

A: I should say 2 books - they fit in a small bag. We left Berlin in 3 cars and in one we placed all these things so you can see there wasn't room for much.

Q: Did each Minister take about the same amount of records?

A: I think so.

Q: Were there any special personal records?

A: No.

Q: Where are the other records?

A: A large part of the papers was moved to Garmischpartenkirchen. Also the papers which could not be moved were kept in Berlin. Part of the Ministry started to move in 1943 on account of the destruction. The Tax and Custodian Departments moved to Illmenau in Thuringia. The Personnel and Organization Departments were moved to Bodenbach in Silesia (Sudeten territory).

Q: Under whose direction was the printing works set up?

A: The President of the Reichsbank.

A 09877

H3241 - 0043

Q: Who controlled the printing in Berlin?

A: It belonged to me.

Q: Would you order the paper and plates?

A: The Reichs did it.

Q: Do you know how much paper was ordered and how many plates were made?

A: No.

Q: Who does know?

A: The Reichsbank would order the material.

Q: Were you furnished with details?

A: Yes.

Q: What was done when new plates were needed?

A: The Reichsbank would attend to this - they would have all the details.

Q: Who ordered the plates andpaper for the other plants?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: Who controlled this?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: Who controlled the number printed - was there any way of knowing?

A: Until last year printing was done only in Berlin and controlled there. When Vienna opened I supposed the local representatives of the Reichsbank controlled the printing.

Q: In Berlin what program would be used for taking care of the amount of paper used? The volume?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: Were there any other plates made?

A: No.

Q: Was there any other money except Reichsmarks printed?

A: There was a printing place in Leipzig which printed money for other countries.

Q: Was this normal money or invasion money?

A: The printing of this money had nothing to do with the war.

Q: Did you print money for occupied countries?

A: No.

A 08378

H3241-0044

Q: Who made the paper?

A: I do not know - the Reichsbank knows.

Q: Who made the plates?

A: They were made in Berlin.

Q: Do you know of any attempt during the latter part of the war to print money that was not authorized - counterfeit?

A: I never heard of it.

Q: Was it in connection with Linz?

A: No.

Q: Make a statement as detailed as you can of events of the last five years and especially the last few months. Make the report very complete. This will give us a much clearer idea of what the picture is; otherwise we will have to start and whatever happens to Germany will just have to happen.

A: There were 4 mints which were under the jurisdiction of the lander so that Reich money was printed in Berlin by the Prussian mint. Only in the last few years was the Prussian mint converted into the Reich mint on the occasion of the construction of a new building.

Q: Can you list everything that was put into the bags?

A: Our parting was rather sudden.

Q: Had you previously considered moving?

A: Yes, but we thought we would go to the south by railroad so that we had enough room to take everything. The last minute we could not go. We had to go to the north of Germany and there was not much time to get our things ready. We took only the important records.

Q: When you say Reich printing works under the Finance Ministry who controlled arrangements and quality of money?

A: The Reichsbank gave order to print the money. The instructions and paper was all taken care of by the Reichsbank. I had a lot of orders from other Ministries to print stamps and all sort of things. Control was made between the Reich Post Minister and Finance Minister.

Q: Who were your representatives in the Reichsbank?

A: Since 1938 (I think that is the date), Dr. Schacht. He was replaced by Mr. Funk. There also was Dr. Bayrhoffer but we left him in Berlin. I do not know if he is still alive.

Q: Did you have anyone else in the Reichsbank?

A: I had personnel who would keep me informed outside of officials channels.

A-09379

H3241 - 0045

S E C R E T

INTERROGATION OF FUNK

4 June 1945

Q: What is your full name?

A: Walther Funk

Q: Do you have any other names?

A: Immanuel is my middle name.

Q: What is your address?

A: Berlin Wannsee, Am Sandweider 17-18. Also a small farn in Bavaria where my wife later lived at Bergerhof near Bad Tölz. I have lived there lately. I have no other addresses. The house in Wannsee was an official residence.

Q: What positions have you held?

A: In the Nazi State or otherwise?

Q: Your last position?

A: President of the Reichsbank since 1939. Reich Economic Minister. Reich Director 1938.

Q: Have you had any other jobs since 1938?

A: No.

Q: Before 1938 what positions did you have?

A: Press chief of the Reich Government; State Secretary in Propaganda Ministry. Held those 2 jobs since 1933.

Q: What kind of job did you have before 1933?

A: Since the middle of 1931 headed a Economic-Political Information Service and before that for 15 years was editor in chief of theBerliner Börsen Zeitung. Headed the Economic Political Service at the request of German Industry and Economy and I joined the party in 1931.

Q: What was the name of the Information Service?

A: "Wirtschaftspolitischer Pressedienst" (Economic-political press service). It was mainly for leading people of leading offices. I was press chief in the office for only 7 months and then took over as party press chief. Then in the Propaganda Ministry I dealt with theaters, films and similar matters.

Q: Who asked you to become liaison in the Ministry of Economics?

A: A wide circle of industries, mainly coal and mining people and especially certain associations called Bergbauverein in Essen.

A 094330

H3241 - 0046

Q: What are the names of the people who asked you?

A: Albert Vögler, Verein igte Stahl-werke - still with the same company. Knepper, Gelsenkirchner Bergwerks-verein.

Q: Was I.G. Farben on your list?

A: All mining companies.

Q: Name the individuals with whom you had contact.

A: Thyssen but did not deal with him personally.
Peter Klöckner, had old mining industry.
Diehn
Kalisyndikat
Rosterg Wintershall

Q: Was there anyone from the Rhein Metal?

A: No.

Q: What about Krupp?

A: He was a member but I had nothing to do with him personally.

Q: Was there anyone from the Alexander Mine?

A: I do not think so.

Q: Did they approach you or did you have to go to them?

A: They approached me. When I was editor-in-chief of the Berlin paper, people approached me saying they wanted someone to exert economic and political influence in the new party which they assumed eventually would gain power in Germany but these people were in doubt as to the economic aims of the party and wanted them clarified. I was in touch with the party men at Munich, Gregor Strasser and later with Hitler.

Q: Have you traveled outside of Germany for the industries?

A: No.

Q: Did you get a contribution from the industries for the Nazi party?

A: Not directly but whenever I put these people in touch with Hitler - then there would be a conference with Hess or someone and they would organize collections for the party. It was only in some instances during the election in 1932 when the party was seriously financially embarrassed that they would contact me and I would obtain initial funds for the party from industries. ja

Q: How much?

A: In 3 or 4 cases where direct intervention was sought, the total was approximately ½ million marks.

Q: Were there any other funds or gifts made for the party from industries?

A: No, they were always for Hitler - they went through Hess.

A-03-081

H3241 - 0047

Q: Did you get anything from Goering?

A: I had hardly any connections with him.

Q: Were any gifts made to Goering directly?

A: I do not know.

Q: You joined the party in 1931?

A: In the summer of 1931.

Q: What position did you hold in the party?

A: No particular position. I was regarded as economic adviser of the party. There was no particular office.

Q: Was this newspaper and news service profitable?

A: The real owner was Dr. Wagener who held some sort of economic position with the Nazi Party.

Q: Had you connections with Dr. Wagener before you became liaison with industry and the party?

A: Before I joined the paper was relatively small and since I had a well known name a good many industrialists started to subscribe.

Q: How many subscribers?

A: This was a very long time ago but I think there were approximately 60 but they paid very well.

Q: Did you furnish economic intelligence to them?

A: Furnished information on economics and politics - also economic articles. The whole thing lasted for about 1½ years.

Q: What was Dr. Wagener in the party?

A: I think he was head of the Political Economy Office but I am not certain. Later on he completely disappeared from the picture. By virtue of Dr. Wagener having that office Dr. Wagener took part in the Nazism of Germany in industry by removing from industrial associations and chambers of commerce people who were not nazis and replacing them with others who were nazis.

Q: Is that how you got your appointment?

A: At that time I was in the Propaganda office and press chief.

Q: Was this your only source of income?

A: No other source of income. Since entering the State I have less money then before. I had a very high income as editor-in-chief of the paper.

Q: How much?

A: Regular salary of 36,000 marks. Also wrote for other papers and gave lectures. My total income was a little over 40,000 marks a year until 1931.

A 03-332

H3241 - 0048

Q: As President of the Reichsbank did you control issuance of Reichsbank currency?

A: Yes, the Reichsbank would get written note from the Reich Finance Minister signed by Hitler instructing the Reichsbank to discount treasury bills up to a certain limit. The duty of the Reich Finance Minister was to satisfy the financial demands of the Reich and especially the Reich armaments which were very high.

Q: Who asked for initial production of treasury bills? Was it the Ministry of Economics who decided how much money was necessary?

A: The Reich Ministry of Finance. Economics had nothing to do with it. Prior to my taking office another system was enforced which had been devised by Schacht. It inserted the so called mefo into the financial apparatus, whereby the bills were issued by the Mefo but when I took office I eliminated mefo which only served to conceal from the general public the financing methods used.

Q: Who had control of the manufacture of currency in Germany - the Reichsbank?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: How many outstanding now?

A: I do not know what happened during the last 2 months. There were approximately 60 billion outstanding prior to that time.

Q: How many Rentenmarks?

A: Approximately 2 billion .

Q: Is this pretty close to being accurate?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there any papers or records which would indicate exactly?

A: The last exact records were with the Reichsbank either in Berlin or Weimar. After that they went to little communities between the various Reichsbank branches.

Q: Where were the places? Where were they manufactured?

A: Berlin - Reich Printing Works; Zwickau; Vienna; Witzenhausen near Kassel. Later since there was a great scarcity of bills in southern Germany, I prepared an auxiliary Reichsbank note to be printed in Munich but it never came to pass as Munich was occupied.

Q: Were there any other places?

A: No.

Q: What about Linz?

A: The place in Linz was making photostatic cipies of certain denominations and certain serial numbers with a view to overcoming the emergency period caused by the

H3241 - 0049

scarcity of bills in Austria. These photostatic copies were to be recalled later when adequate supplies of bills were available.

Q: Did you issue the photostatic copies with the same number?

A: They all had the same number. This was necessary because no notes had been printed in southern Germany. The paper on which these were published was quite different from the regular money temporarily being issued. It was necessary to do this to pay wages.

Q: Were they photostated or photoengraved? PHOTOKOPIERT HOCHDRUCK GEÄTZT.

A: They were a regular photostatic copy. They just looked slightly different. Also they were printed on a different size paper. An announcement was published that these would be used as emergency money. The notes had full legal tender and were to be recalled later.

Q: When were they published?

A: About the last 2 weeks before occupation.

Q: What month?

A: The end of April.

Q: In what cities?

A: All over Austria.

Q: Who made them and where were they actually made?

A: I myself have not seen the notes. The photostats were made in printing shops. Made by the local Gau Economic Adviser.

Q: Who had control of the quantity of money to be manufactured in the towns?

A: The Reichsbank because the notes could be issued only by the Reichsbank in accordance with Reichsbank instructions.

Q: Who controlled the paper?

A: The Gau Economic Chamber in Linz and Salzburg.

Q: Who controlled the sheets of this paper actually made?

A: The Gau Economic Chamber had advisers in the plant.

Q: What about the Reichsbank?

A: The Reichsbank never had any direct supervision in the regular printing shops. The printers were pledged and it was not necessary to exercise any control.

Q: Was there a special kind of paper used for this photostating?

A: I do not know the procedure.

A 03434

H3241 - 0050

Q: When treasury bills were discounted with the Reichsbank and you had to order notes to be printed for the quantity of bills discounted, how many treasury bills were issued in this way?

A: Approximately 250 billions in short termed treasury bills.

Q: Any other securities?

A: Short term - Schatzanweisungen with maturity from 6 to 12 months.

Q: Who issued them?

A: Reich Minister of Finance sold through the Reichsbank.

Q: Were they sold to the public?

A: Sold to banks and large industrial concerns.

Q: To insurance companies?

A: Yes, but not so much. Sold mainly to Banks and armament firms.

Q: About how much of this type of paper was issued?

A: 150 billions approximately. I am not certain and things may have changed during the last 2 months.

Q: What else was issued?

A: Long term paper.

Q: How much issued?

A: 150 billions but the Reich Finance Minister would know better. He obtained the money while the Reichsbank was only the sales office.

Q: About how much in gold would the Reichsbank have?

A: At what time?

Q: At any time?

A: Beginning in January 1945, 450 million Reichsmarks in gold.

Q: February?

A: In February 1945 by instructions of the Fuhrer the gold was moved to a mine in central Germany but this was captured by the American troops.

Q: All of it?

A: There were smaller itmes in various Reichsbank branches. Most of the deposits with the Reichsbank branches were taken over by the American Military Government. There is an exception of 10 tons of gold which was given to a Wehrmacht unit for safe keeping and protection. To date and according to the latest information I do not know whether or not it has been found because no one knows where the officers are that had the gold.

AGS 355

H3241 – 0051

Q: What unit had it?

A: It was taken by a unit of mountain troops. The mountain troops suggested taking the gold into the mountains because previously it had been hidden in a mine in Bavaria which was not suited. The officers have not been found so the gold cannot be traced. Lists of the gold in this connection were preserved at the Reichsbank.

Q: Where?

A: In Munich.

Q: Where is the list of all the gold?

A: In Berlin.

Q: There are no lists any place else?

A: The Foreign Exchange Director, Friedrich Wilhelm, has all records and if he moved out of Berlin he may have taken them along. He knows about all the small items spread out but they have all been taken by the American Army. The American officers interrogated him and told him where such stocks of gold were found.

Q: All thegold with the exception of a few small lots were put in Merkers?

A: By far the biggest item, 400 million.

Q: All the rest totaled 50 million?

A: Yes.

Q: How many deposits in balance?

A: 6 or 7.

Q: Where?

A: They are all small items. Kontanz Reichsbank used to buy Swiss francs from Switzerland. At Lindau on Lake Konstanz in the Reichsbank we have small items in circulation.

Q: Any place else?

A: No.

Q: Did you decide where this gold should be distributed?

A: In the case of very large sums I made decisions but on smaller sums the Reichsbank did the directing.

Q: How much did Himmler get from you?

A: Himmler did not get anything from me.

Q: How much did Himmler get from the Reichsbank?

A: I do not believe he got anything from the Reichsbank.

A 001886

H3241 - 0052

Q: Did you get gold from Himmler?

A: Once the SD made a Verschlossenes Depot a deposit of which the Reichsbank had no knowledge of the contents.

Q: On other occasions would the SS make any deposits?

A: I do not know.

Q: What about their deposits of gold?

A: Definitely not. I know of only one deposit by the SD and the contents is not known.

Q: Did the SS ever bring in deposits of rings, gold teeth or anything else?

A: No.

Q: Are you sure?

A: I do not know because jewelry is something the Reichsbank does not handle.

Q: Did you ever melt gold to bullion?

A: No.

Q: Did you melt gold bars?

A: I am not familiar with this and had nothing to do with things of this sort. As President I was concerned only with questions of foreign exchange and deposits.

Q: Isn't gold a question of foreign exchange?

A: So far as the Reichsbank is concerned, everyone in Germany owning gold coin or foreign exchange surrendered it to the Reichsbank for Reichsmarks currency. This was completed before I took office. When I took office I found the gold there which was gradually consumed, then a sizeable receipt from Belgium and France. At first the Reichsbank refused to accept it because the property rights were not clearly defind.

Q: All this happened after 1938?

A: Yes, during the war.

Q: The gold you are talking about, wasn't that gotten from Vichy?

A: The Reichsbank received it from the Foreign Office.

Q: Where did the Foreign Office get it?

A: From the Vichy Government. The Foreign Office and the Four Years' Plan were the 2 governmental agencies concerned with the gold.

What did they do with the gold?

A: The Reichsbank took it over on account of the law called "Kriegsleistungsgesetz."

A 034087

H3241 - 0053

Q: Who wrote the law?

A: Minister of the Interior.

Q: Who objected to your taking this gold?

A: I did.

Q: Why did you object?

A: Because the ownership rights were not clear. It was the gold that the Belgium Government and Belgian Central Bank had deposited in France.

Q: Do you want us to believe that you had been a member of the party since 1931 and you did not want to receive this gold?

A: Yes, because it would have encouraged serious consequences with the Reichsbank in international relations with other central banks which were entirely in accord.

Q: Do you know anything about deposits of jewels or metals made in the Reichsbank?

A: I know the Four Years' Plan had diamonds in custody at the Reichsbank not owned by the Reichsbank and with which the Reichsbank had nothing to do. They were left there as protection and later were placed at the disposal of a jeweler who worked on diamonds.

Q: We will give you one more chance - have you any large deposits of gold in the Reichsbank in suitcases?

A: No.

Q: Do you know Melmer?

A: I am hearing his name for the first time.

Q: Did Melmer deposit any gold in the Reichsbank?

A: I am hearing his name for the first time.

Q: Do you know Max Heileger?

A: I am hearing his name for the first time.

Q: Who would handle the receiving of gold in the Reichsbank?

A: The office working under the Director, F. Wilhelm.

Q: Is he the only one that would know?

A: His was the only office responsible for receiving and handling gold and foreign exchange.

Q: Who had charge of withdrawals of gold from the Reichsbank?

A: The same office.

Q: Were you informed of withdrawals?

A: Only very large items. I definitely did not hear names.

A 09-383

H3241 - 0054

Q: How large a sum was delivered to the Four Years' Plan?

A: The Four Years' Plan could dispose of all gold held by the Reichsbank. In addition to that, there was a special gold reserve fund at their sole disposal and the Reichsbank could not touch it. This special fund included the 450 million marks in the fund that I mentioned earlier.

Q: In 1938 you became President of the Reichsbank. How much gold did the Reich have?

A: Not quite 500 million marks.

Q: In 1944 how much gold?

A: A considerable increase occurred only with the influx of Belgian gold - otherwise reduced through sales of gold to foreign countries.

Q: How much did they have before?

A: Before receiving the Belgian gold approximately 500 million.

Q: How much in Belgian gold?

A: 400 million.

Q: And in 1940 about 900 million?

A: Including the Belgian gold.

Q: This includes the special gold fund of the Four Years' Plan?

A: This does not include the special fund.

Q: How big was the special fund?

A: It is difficult to say off hand - somewhere between 150 and 200 million.

Q: Then in 1941 how much gold was there?

A: I do not know. All I know is that the gold stock was gradually reduced at the end and left only the gold received from Belgium plus a small remainder. The bulk went to Rumania for the purchase of oil or wheat.

Q: Who in Rumania?

A: The Rumanian National Bank.

Q: Did they insist on payment in gold?

A: Definitely, only against gold payment were we able to obtain wheat.

Q: Weren't you occupying that country?

A: No.

A63-359

H3241 – 0055

Q: Were troops there?

A: They had troops together with Reich troops just stationed there.

Q: Was any gold sent to Sweden?

A: At the beginning of the war Sweden took some gold but has taken none lately.

Q: Was any gold sent to Switzerland?

A: Sales of gold were constantly made.

Q: How much gold was sold?

A: I do not know the details but it would be a considerable amount.

Q: Can you give us a figure?

A: I definitely cannot give a figure. It could have been 100 million or more.

Q: Was any gold sent to South America?

A: I do not know of any gold transaction to South America. We did with Spain via Switzerland. Also sold gold to Portugal and smaller items to Hungary, Belgium and Czechoslovakia.

Q: Did you give any gold to any individuals in Germany?

A: No.

Q: Did you give any to the Four Years' Plan?

A: Not from us. The management could request from the Reichsbank from its stocks of gold for certain purposes. I do not know if it ever happened. I think the gold transactions by the Four Years' Plan were made via the Reichsbank.

Q: How was foreign exchange supplied in the normal way to somebody who needed it?

A: Request for a permit made with the Department of the Reich Economic Ministry concerned with Foreign Trade and there it was decided upon. If the request was granted, the Reichsbank paid out the foreign exchange.

Q: Who was the head of this?

A: Dr. Kirchfeld and before him to the Under State Secretary von Jagwitz. The last named man was already there when I took on the job in the Reich Economic Ministry.

Q: Why did von Jagwitz leave that position?

A: In the fall of 1943 the Reich Economic Ministry reorganized and all production matters were transferred to the Armament Ministry. In connection with the reorganization, the personnel of the Reich Economic Ministry was greatly curtailed. The Secretary left and so did the under-secretary von Jagwitz. Since the purpose of the

A 034690

H3241 - 0056

Reich Economic Ministry from then on was concerned mainly with the matter of disposition of goods, the head of the Reichsgruppe Handel, Dr. Hayler, joined the Reich Economic Ministry.

Q: Was he the one who withdrew the gold from the Reichsbank?

A: No.

Q: What is his first name?

A: Franz.

Q: Was he your secretary?

A: The Ministry did not have anyone at all at the end and settled everything with the State Secretary.

Q: Who handled your personal affairs?

A: Dr. Sowedler.

Q: Who handled your personal check book?

A: Reichsbank Director Reinhardt.

Q: What was his first name?

A: He was chief of the President's office. First name was Johannes.

Q: Did he take care of making out personal checks?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have any female secretaries?

A: I did not have a female personal secretary. There were several girls working in the internal office and also at the Ministry and Reichsbank.

Q: The tax report was made out by whom?

A: I made them out.

Q: Did you type them?

A: No, I wrote them out by hand.

Q: Did you keep a copy?

A: In Berlin there was a copy.

Q: Did you keep a copy for yourself?

A: I had only my salary and allowance payable to all Ministers - no other income.

Q: What was your salary?

A: 60,000 annually as Reichsbank President and 48,000 annually which was the usual allowance payable to every minister.

AC94-91

H3241 - 0057

Q: Is this your only income?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you get any payment from the party?

A: I never held an office in the party.

Q: Did you ever get any gifts from the party or people in the party?

A: No, but I once received a donation from Hitler on my 50th birthday. Received a farm in Bavaria from the German industries and the money given by Hitler was given as an endowment to the Reichsbank.

Q: How much?

A: ½ million marks.

Q: Was this from the Fuhrer?

A: Yes, it was in the form of an endowment to the Reichsbank for Reichsbank employees at war.

Q: You were given the farm by the industries?

A: Yes, it was given with the permission of Hitler.

Q: What industries?

A: Reich Economic Chamber - Apex organization of the entire industry.

Q: How big was the farm?

A: 200 Morgen. 53 hectors.

Q: Is this the farm where your wife lives?

A: She was there when the troops arrived and they told her to stay or to move to Bad Tolz so she moved to Bad Tolz. I was informed of this by American officers.

Q: Where is the farm?

A: 7 km. from Bad Tolz - 40 km. from Munich.

Q: Was it customary for all ministers to receive gifts from industries?

A: No, this was an exception and with special permission because for 25 years I have been active as an economist, political economist.

Q: Did you have any bank accounts?

A: In the Reichsbank at Berlin where I received my Reichsbank salary. Also in the Thyssen Bank.

Q: Any other bank accounts?

A: No.

4034-92

H3241 - 0058

Q: Did your wife have any accounts?

A: She had a small account of a few thousand marks in the Deutsch Bank for current expenses.

Q: Have you any children?

A: No.

Q: Is your wife living alone?

A: She is living with a niece of hers who is the wife of a German Army surgeon. Also living in the home is a small girl whom they have adopted. She is the daughter of a Swedish woman who was a very good friend of my wife. This woman lived for many years in Paris. On account of the unstable conditions in Paris, we had taken the little girl over so to speak.

Q: Does the woman still live in Paris?

A: I think so.

Q: Do you have any insurance?

A: Yes, with Allianz.

Q: What office?

A: Berlin

Q: Any other insurance?

A: No.

Q: Do you have any property outside of Germany?

A: No, except that as a member of the Board of the Bank for International Settlement, my Directors fees are deposited there as it is customary with the Directors of that Bank. I do not know exactly what it is but it is approximately 15 to 20 thousand Swiss francs.

Q: Have you ever sent any funds abroad to other people?

A: No.

Q: Have you ever sent anything to the mother of this daughter?

A: No.

Q: To anybody else?

A: No.

Q: Have you ever lived abroad?

A: No, only when on official business.

Q: When did you go on official business?

A: Went to Basle once a month to attend a board meeting in the Bank of International Settlement. Before the war I went to negotiate a loan in Turkey. Also went to Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Holland, Rumania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia but never went while the territories were occupied.

1 094 93

H3241 - 0059

Q: Did you ever go to Austria?

A: Before Anschluss visited Austria once and went for recreation.

Q: Did you go there after Anschluss?

A: I have frequently been to Vienna, Klagenfurth, Graz, Linz, Salzburg.

Q: Have you ever been to France?

A: Never after the occupation. In 1937 I went to Paris to conduct a German Cultural Act at the International Exposition. Since that time I have not visited Paris or any other part of France.

Q: Have you ever been to Holland or Belgium?

A: Not since the occupation.

Q: Ever been to Spain?

A: Never.

Q: Did you take care of remitting funds abroad for the Foreign Office?

A: No.

Q: Who did?

A: There was a special quota allowed and at its request the Foreign Office could make further deposits.

Q: Did the SS have such a fund?

A: There was a special allotment not to the SS but to the Secret Department of the SS.

Q: Who was head of that secret organization.

A: It was at first a military organization but was combined with the SD and I believe it was Obergruppenführer Kaltenbrunner. The head of the former army department was Canaris.

Q: What happened to him?

A: I do not know.

Q: What happened to the other man?

A: I heard he was taken prisoner in the 7th Army area.

Q: Who was Schellenberg?

A: He was the man who handled the foreign service quota for Himmler. I knew him casually but had nothing to do with him.

Q: Did you know of a hunchback man in Berlin who had to do with foreign exchange?

A: No.

A 091 941

H3241 - 0060

Q: Were there any other places for the manufacture of foreign money?

A: What do you mean?

Q: Money of other countries?

A: I know nothing.

Q: You have heard about that before?

A: What kind of foreign money?

Q: Every kind, dollars, pounds, francs, etc.

A: I know nothing.

Q: Do ydu know anything about counterfeiting?

A: No.

Q: How much foreign exchange did the Reichsbank have lately?

A: From 7 to 8 million marks worth of foreign funds.

Q: Of all kinds?

A: I think they were mostly Swedish or Swiss. I do not know definitely.

Q: Who dealt with them?

A: Wilhelm. The fund may have been more possibly up to 30 million because 7 million I now seem to recall may be 7 million dollars. The total amount of foreign exchange amounted to what comes to approximately 30 million marks.

Q: Were there any securities in foreign companies - stocks or bonds?

A: As far as I know they were owned by individuals in Germany and were surrendered on the basis of the Four Years' Plan. They could be sold abroad but I think this took place before I took office.

Q: Were they deposited abroad?

A: Yes.

Q: What procedure?

A: Individual owners got Reichsmark equivalent - Reichsbank got the dollars.

Q: These funds were deposited in the Reichsbank in what account?

A: The foreign exchange account was credited.

Q: Did you have several Devisen accounts?

A: They had a foreign exchange department which kept foreign exchange accounts.

A 094695

H3241 - 0061

Q: Were these property of the Reich or the Reichsbank?

A: The Reichsbank.

Q: Then if the Reichsbank made foreign exchange available to the Four Years' Plan, they would owe the Reichsbank for foreign exchange?

A: They paid. The Reichsbank sold foreign exchange only against money.

Q: How could a Minister traveling abroad get foreign exchange?

A: Make request and then was paid either foreign exchange or cash credit.

Q: What about fine art purchases abroad - would you provide foreign exchange?

A: If the Reich leader Bormann requested lira for something the request was made subject to my examination.

He usually got it and the money could have been used to purchase objects of art.

Q: Was the same true of Goering?

A: Not in his case because he already had foreign exchange funds. If the Four Years' Plan notified them it requested foreign exchange and put in the equivalent in Reichsmarks, the foreign exchange had to be supplied but in every case a permit was needed from the foreign exchange branch of the Reich Economics Minister because otherwise the Reichsbank made no payment.

Q: Do you know of any foreign exchange furnished to Goering?

A: No, it was issued by the office concerned.

A-094-96

H3241 - 0062

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: What was your occupation?

A: Officer and Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe; Minister of Air Transport, Minister President of Prussia; President of the Reichstag; Minister of Forestry; Rank of Reichsmarshal.

Q: Which did you regard as most important?

A: Chief of the 4 Years' Plan. During the war Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe.

Q: Prior to the war?

A: Chief of the 4 Years Plan and also Minister of Air Transport.

Q: Do you regard yourself as a military man?

A: Yes.

Q: Are these all the positions held by you regarded as important?

A: Yes.

Q: American newspapers stated that you liked being called "Master of the Hunt"? Is that right?

A: Most amusing but not the most important job. It was part of the forestry job.

Q: Apparently you were one of the most successful Nazis because you were able to survive?

A: As you want to look at it.

Q: Do you know that Hitler, Himmler and Goebbels are dead?

A: Yes.

Q: You are the only one left?

A: I don't know how you want to look at the thing but there are quite a few other Nazis left.

Q: How do you look at it?

A: As far as it looked to the outside I was second in command but starting in the middle of 1942 my influence decreased.

Q: Who were your competitors for power?

A: Himmler, later on Bormann.

Q: They are all gone?

A: It dosen't matter, I just answered the question.

Q: You are the last great Nazi. How did you manage to survive? Why haven't you died?

A: It was an accident. I've answred the question six times already. I was arrested and supposed to be shot but was not through accident.

A 094697

H3241 - 0063

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: So you regard this a happy accident of fate that you have lived?

A: Yes, a lucky accident, I was not shot. The order was not carried through.

Q: Do you regard yourself as a man of moderation in the Hitler Regime?

A: I have always been moderate.

Q: Is that an important factor why you are still alive?

A: No, I don't think so because quite easily it could have lead to the opposite.

Q: You occupied an important post from 1932 on. Is that correct?

A: In 1923 I was in charge of the SA for about 10 months. In the Beer Hall Putch I was wounded and came back to the party in 1928.

Q: When did you occupy your first governmental post?

A: 1932, I was president of the Reichstag and in 1933, I had my first governmental job.

Q: Describe the powers you had over the German economy as administrator of the 4 Years' Plan.

A: I have never been a businessman and this was something completely new to me. My job was to organize the German economy and my energy was put to work to get things started and carried through. I only worked on the basic ideas and did not go into details but in the course of years I have learned a lot. My main task was to secure the food supply for Germany for many years ahead and to make Germany self-sufficient. The most important items were iron, petroleum and rubber. Germany had much iron but it was not very good. The industry only wanted to have very high grade Swedish iron for business reasons. There was danger that during the war Germany would not be able to get iron from Swedon and there would be no iron..

Q: What war are you talking about? This is 1936 you're speaking of.

A: Any possibility of war, perhaps with Russia or in case there was war with anyone at any time and anywhere.

Q: Did the 4 Years' Plan limit itself to petroleum, iron and rubber?

A: No, it also applied to all other necessary raw materials.

Q: Was it the intention to make Germany strong industrially in the event of war?

A: Not only for war but in peace also. Germany had difficulty with foreign exchange in peace and had to work with deficiencies in foreign exchange.

Q: Were you concerned with foreign exchange problems?

A: At the Reichsbank and Ministry of Economics I had to.

H3241 - 0064

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: Who assisted you in making important policy decisions effecting other ministries?

A: Jagwitz. When Funk became Minister they discussed those questions together.

Q: Suppose you were ill or away and important issues of foreign trade came up, who acted on your behalf in dealing with them?

A: Funk.

Q: Who carried on in your absence?

A: Funk.

Q: Did you know a man by the name of Gramsch?

A: Gramsch was part of the staff of Koerner. A man who had an administrative set up and was in closest connection with the different ministries.

Q: Did Gramsch discuss matters of policy with you in order to brief or prepare you for your discussions with Funk?

A: Gramsch only talked with me twice very shortly. Gramsch was mainly concerned that laws which originated between the different ministries were consistent with the 4 Years' Plan. If I put up a law he had to do the administrative job. He was a lawyer.

Q: Who was Kadgien?

A: He was a specialist on the staff of Koerner and Gramsch and when any laws were issued by me he had to look after the economic questions in them. One of the jobs of Kadgien was to tell me through Gramsch that certain jobs had to be done. There was one other helper, State Undersecretary Neumann. Koerner was manager of administrative matters; Gramsch was a lawyer; Kadgien was economic adviser; Neumann assited Koerner. I had the whole staff which worked under me as Minister President of Prussia, to work also for the 4 Years' Plan in a dual capacity. To give an example of Koerner's work, if I wanted to change anything, for example the price of milk, I would tell Koerner to call the next day those officials in the ministries who were concerned with the matter and in the meeting we would talk the question over and it was then the job of the administrative staff to write it up in the form of a decree. To give a second example, if the Ministry of Economics wanted to make a purchase of chromium from Turkey I would tell Koerner to call in the specialists and ministries who were concerned. There would be a discussion on the matter and I would make the final decision of how much gold could be spared, and after that it was the task of the ministry in question to make the final decree.

Q: All details were in the hands of Funk and his assistants in the Ministry of Economics and with Wilhelm in the Reichsbank but when there was a question concerning large issues it had to be presented to you. Is that right?

A: Generally yes, unless certain general arrangements were made before.

Q: Was the situation different in 1944 than in 1938 and 1939?

A: Yes, my influence in the 4 Years' Plan stopped in 1942. After that I was there only by name.

A-03[illegible]-49

H3241 - 0065

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: When was the 4 Years' Plan put into actual operation?

A: October, 1936. To make Germany self-sufficient in iron, rubber, textiles, petroleum. I was concerned to enable Germany to acquire foreign goods through the control of foreign exchange. Also Germany was looked over for raw materials, to use all possible resources in Germany to make it self-sufficient with the help of raw materials or synthetic means. Another important point was to secure food supplies for Germany.

Q: Did you issue regulations as to price control, foreign exchange, etc?

A: I was in charge of prices and foreign exchange because I had to buy certain raw materials from abroad and all important details concerning items to be bought were brought to me.

Q: There was no question that you were boss of economy?

A: Yes.

Q: Could there be any major decisions affecting the German economy and finance without your approval?

A: In important cases they had to ask me and I could even use my influence in unimportant cases.

Q: Is it correct that in important cases they came to you in advance for your approval or did they act subject to your disapproval?

A: In all cases they came and talked about it first.

Q: We understand in this time you were No. 2 man in Germany. Who assisted you?

A: In Food, Secretary of State, Backe.
In coal and oil - Pleiger.
In chemicals - Prof. Krauch from I. G. Farben.
Foreign Exchange - Funk.
Sub-division for foreign trade - Jagwitz and Hannecken; both were in the Ministry of Economics but Hannecken was more concerned with internal affairs. In the beginning of the 4 Years' Plan Loeb was chief of planning. When Loeb left Koerner succeeded him.

Q: When Loeb returned to the Air Force who took over his functions?

A: When Loeb was there the 4 Years' Plan and the Ministries were two separate things. After Loeb went away I reorganized the 4 Years' Plan distributing it into the Ministries. It was not a separate set anymore. When Loeb was there there was always danger that the 4 Years' Plan would develop into a new Ministry and get to big. My idea was always to keep it as small as possible and not to have too many people in it and have it work with the Ministries.

Q: In the office of the 4 Years' Plan your principal assistant was Koerner after the departure of Loeb. Is that correct?

A: Koerner had an administrative job to coordinate between the different ministries.

H3241 - 0066

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: Who was boss of divisen in 1944?

A: Funk. After that I was just asked formally on decisions on the Rumanian gold question.

Q: Do you know that Himmler had his own foreign exchange?

A: I want to be precise on this question. I always thought that Himmler had his own foreign exchange but never had any proof of that. There were two reasons for my suspicion, (1) Himmler had very often the opportunity when he was making arrests to collect foreign exchange and other valuables, and usually only very small parts were given to the Reichsbank. Once I talked to Himmler about it and after that greater amounts were given to the Reichsbank for a short time (2) I was in charge of the Devisenfahndungsamt (Devisen discovery agency). This actually is a police job but it did not belong to the police. I was originally in charge. The Gestapo tried all the time to take over and get it under its influence.

Q: Under what regulation was this Devisenfahndungsamt established and how did it operate?

A: The main officials were former customs officials.

Q: Were the devisen found by these people turned over to the Reichsbank?

A: To the Reichsbank and Finance Ministry.

Q: Did the 4 Years' Plan decrease in importance in 1942?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the reason for that?

A: The more difficult the war situation got the more I was absorbed in my capacity as Chief of the Luftwaffe and the less I was in Berlin to apply my time to the 4 Years' Plan. Before 1942 I made completely independent decisions as far as questions of the 4 Years' Plan were concerned but after that time Hitler made decisions on his own on economic questions and I transferred the duties of the 4 Years' Plan to Speer. The main task of the 4 Years' Plan had been accomplished. This task was to get Germany ready.

Q: Is it correct that Speer was able to increase production in 1943?

A: Yes, the production of weapons.

Q: Did you transfer to Speer the powrs over the Devisenfahndungsamt or did they stay with Funk?

A: Speer was only concerned with armament questions. The foreign exchange question stayed with Funk and also the Foreign Ministry was very much concerned.

Q: When did you last transact or conduct business in the Office of the 4 Years' Plan?

A: All I remember, in 1944 are transactions with Rumanian gold, gold for Greece and one request from the Foreign Office concerning Italian gold.

A 094301

H3241 - 0067

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: We regard the Office of the 4 Years' Plan as a very interesting institution.

A: The authorization for the 4 Years' Plan was the most comprehensive licensing power ever given in Germany and all subsequent authorizations were actually derived from this original authorization and even Goebbels as organizer of total war was under me.

Q: What happened to the records of the 4 Years' Plan?

A: I cannot say since on Hitler's orders most of the papers have been burned in the whole Reichs government.

Q: Were some of these records deposited with the Reichsbank? Did you take any records of the 4 Years' Plan with you on your trip to the south?

A: No, I never had any papers with me, military or private.

Q: When you write your autobiography, how are you going to describe your accomplishment as administrator of the 4 Years' Plan when there are no records?

A: That's very difficult.

Q: Whom do you want to help you in regard to this?

A: I would ask Koerner, Neumann, Gramsch, and some specialists in the ministries. The 4 Years' Plan was such an important thing it should be written up.

Q: Discussing the situation in 1942. Did the Office of the 4 Years' Plan hold devisen in Switzerland, Sweden and Spain other than regular accounts of the Reichsbank in those countries?

A: The 4 Years' Plan has never had any foeign exchange outside of the Reichsbank but in the Reichsbank there was a special fund which could not be used without the authorization of the 4 Years' Plan. I usually made the main decosions but sometimes Koerner also made decisions. The administration of the fund lay with the Reichsbank.

Q: When you wanted to give instruction to the Reichsbank with respect to this account did you give them to Funk or Wilhelm?

A: If I needed foreign exchange for myself, which only amounted to small amounts, I would send my secretary to Wilhelm. But if I needed large amounts for the 4Years' Plan to make purchases abroad I would send a formal request to the Reichsbank President Funk. The same was true for the special gold fund which was at my disposal in the Reichsbank.

Q: Was this fund large or small?

A: Large. I do not know what percentage of the total foreign exchange of the Reichsbank was earmarked for the 4 Years' Plan but I think that it was a large amount. Funk and Koerner would be able to give the exact figures. There was a big amount so that if any sudden expenses occured for the 4 Years' Plan foreign exchange was always available.

Q: What were some of the large transactions out of this account?

A: The 3 gold tranactions mentioned above.

A 094902

H3241 – 0068

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: Were their many large transactions involving Swiss francs in 1944 in regard to this account or Portugese escudas?

A: I don't know about that.

Q: Do you know that Ribbentrop had extensive large holdings of devisen outside of Germany?

A: There was a continuous quarrel between the Foreign Office and the Reichsbank about foreign exchange. The Foreign Office tried to get as much of the foreign exchange that came in as possible, but I usually tried to cut the percentage down. Actually I don't know how much foreign exchange the Foreign Office had at any time.

Q: In addition to Himmler and Ribbentrop, were there any other agencies that had devisen outside the Reichsbank?

A: The espionage agency had a small fund too.

Q: Did the Luftwaffe hold any foreign exchange abroad outside the Reichsbank channels?

A: No, the Luftwaffe has not had any foreign exchange outside the Reichsbank. Even if the Luftwaffe sold planes abroad the amounts from the sales were put into the Reichsbank or if the Luftwaffe wanted to make purchases right away in a foreign country the Reichsbank would be notified about the amounts of those sales and purchases.

Q: When the Office of the 4 Years' Plan found it necessary to acquire goods outside of Germany for devisen rather than through clearing, what kind of devisen did it use?

A: It attempted to use the currency of the country where the purchase was made, unless that country asked for some other kind of currency.

Q: Did you use dollars or pounds?

A: Dollars and pounds were used but 2 years after the war started it became more and more difficult to use pounds and dollars.

Q: Could they be used at a discount?

A: Yes, but large amounts were refused, because the other countries could not buy anything for pounds and dollars. It was more difficult to place pounds than dollars.

Q: How large a volume of dollars was secured with the fall of France, Netherlands, Belgium, etc.?

A: That is impossible to remember.

Q: Were the foreign exchange accounts of the Foreign Office and Himmler lawful?

A: The fund of the Foreign Office were lawful, but the fund that Himmler had was unlawful. That fund was stolen.

Q: Did Speer have devisen other than those in the Reichsbank?

A: Speer asked for foreign exchange at the Reichsbank. It is possible that Speer had foreign exchange which he received from sales abroad, but the Reichsbank would probably know about such sales and purchases.

A 094303

SECRET

H3241 - 0069

INTERROGATION OF GOERING

25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: You have a rather high opinion of Funk? Is that right?

A: Yes, he is a good man. He did everything possible to operate the Reichsbank for the interest of Germany.

Q: He was much better than Schacht. Is that right?

A: Yes. As a man he was certainly better than Schacht but also as president of the Reichsbank. Funk was very moderate and against all excesses.

Q: How did Schacht and Funk differ?

A: Schacht did more what he wanted himself. Funk did what he was told to do, but at times he spoke up if it was in the interest of the Reichsbank.

Q: Was Funk one of the principal contact men between the Nazi Party and German industrialists?

A: Before the party got into power Funk was contact man between Hitler and the industrialists, but after the party got into power there was direct contact between the party and the industrialists. In the period between 1929 and 1933 Funk was one of the principal contact men.

Q: What do you think of Schacht?

A: He is a great egotist.

Q: Don't you think you are a an egotist yourself?

A: My jobs were given to me and I worked like a horse to accomplish something. I didn't ask for the jobs.

Q: Didn't Schacht also work hard?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you tell us anything more about Schacht?

A: He was a clever man. Even before the party got into power he worked for the party.

Q: He must have been a smarter man than you because he left the party before the war.

A: Some people do not have character.

Q: Can we trust Schacht?

A: I leave that up to you.

Q: Is he a man without character?

A: I don't want to say exactly, but it is known that Schacht has often changed his opinions.

Q: Are you a man of principle?

A: I have always stayed with my convictions.

A 034304

H3241 – 0070

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
25 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: What are your main convictions?

A: To work for my country. And I don't want to judge Schacht; I was just asked my personal opinion of him.

Q: Schacht changed opinions quite frequently. What happened in 1939 when he left his official post?

A: He had to leave the Reichsbank.

Q: Why?

A: It was impossible for Hitler to work with him anymore.

Q: What did they disagree about?

A: Hitler and Schacht got away from each other.

Q: You got away from Hitler in 1943?

A: At first there were objective reasons between Hitler and me, even personal reasons followed.

Q: Was there a parallel between you and Schacht?

A: Schacht did not go voluntarily. He was told to go, otherwise he probably would have stayed.

Q: What do you think of Thyssen?

A: I always liked Thyssen very much. Thyssen was generous and interested in things but then in 1939 he left the country without reason, and actually became a traitor to Germany by giving the French Government details about German supplies of oil and about industry. When Thyssen was handed over by the French at the end of the war, I took the side of Thyssen. I kept him out of prison and instead he and his wife were put in a sanitarium. I used my influence for many years so that Thyssen could stay in the sanitarium, but I think in the last year Thyssen was taken by the SS. In any other country like America or England Thyssen would have been condemned to death.

Q: What makes you think so?

A: He was obviously a traitor, being in France as a German national during the war and giving the French Government information about the German economy, which is treason in all countries.

Q: Was it because of your own personal power that you were able to save him?

A: Yes, I thought that Thyssen had not committed treason knowingly.

Q: Did he do it as a means of undermining the Hitler regime?

A: I think that Thyssen was not aware of what he was doing.

A 094965

282805

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: Were you Minister of Economics and President of the Reichsbank?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you occupied those positions since about 1939?

A: Since January 1939.

Q: When were you specifically appointed Minister of Economics?

A: November 1937, but the Reichsmarshal took over until February and then I took over.

Q: When did you become President of the Reichsbank?

A: End of January 1939.

Q: For a period of about a year you were Minister of Economics and Schacht was President of the Reichsbank. Is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: What other positions did you hold at the time of your detention?

A: Minister of Economics and President of the Reichsbank.

Q: Were you a member of a board of any corporation, public or private?

A: The President of the Reichsbank has always been Chairman of the Golddiskontbank. I was also Chairman of the Kontinentale Oel A. G., but this company never really functioned except once in the case of Romanian oil. I was a member of the board of the Bank for International Settlements at Basel.

Q: Holding those positions since 1938 or 39, you must have known more about the German economy and German finance than any other person in Germany. Is that true?

A: I know only a small section of the German economy since the main sector was under the Ministry for Armaments and War Production. The Ministry of Economics only dealt with supplies of food and consumers' goods. The main production was in the armament industry.

Q: With respect to monetary policy you know more than any other person. Is that true?

A: I only know about financial and monetary policies. The actual financing of the armament industry was in the hands of the Ministry of War Production and Armaments. There were two completely different directions by which the economy was handled - the old one under me, and the new one under Speer, and finally I had to agree to the seperation and to hand over to Speer all directions of production, since the two were completely different.

Q: What were your personal relations with Speer at that time?

A: Our personal relations were not bad, but as far as the professional side was concerned there existed big controversies.

A034916

H3241 -0071

H3241 - 0072

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: What does Speer know about monetary policy?

A: Speer did not care much about that angle but there was Hettlage in his office. Hettlage was the financial director of Speer.

Q: What did the financial director in the Speer Ministry do?

A: He had to see that there was always enough money in the branches of the armament industry and also had to look after purchases abroad of necessary materials. He handled the whole financial side of the armament industry since the Finance Ministry did not know anything about financing of the armament industy. Nor did it know anything about army finance.

Q: What kind of money did they have to have? German currency or foreign exchange?

A: Only German currency.

Q: When they needed foreign exchange where did they get it?

A: Hettlage had to ask the Ministry of Economics and then he would get the foreign exchange from the Reichsbank. This is not the usual way. Usually if the Ministry of Armaments and War Production needed any materials from abroad, an agreement was made with the country in question and purchases were balanced under a trade agreement by exchange of other goods.

Q: It follows then that any imports required by the Speer Ministry were known to you?

A: Most purchases were on the basis of trade agreements, but there is a possibility that besides that, private firms in Germany had agreements with foreign firms but that could have been only on a very small scale.

Q: How does the Speer Ministry fit into those private agreements?

A: The Speer Ministry did not consist of government officials but of private businessmen.

Q: Even in those cases your subordinate employees in the Ministry must have known of these transactions?

A: I am convinced that we were aware of most of these transactions since the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Economics were very much interested in not having such private dealings going on.

Q: What happened to the Ministry of Economics in March 1945?

A: In March one party left Berlin for the South and one party stayed in Berlin. I was not in Berlin at the time since I had to look after monetary difficulties in southern Germany. One party should have gone to northern Germany.

Q: Why did they move back toward Berlin after they left?

A: I suppose that was when Thuringia was occupied by Allied troops.

Q: What was the plan?

A (3.907

H3241 - 0073

A: Since there was danger for Berlin it was decided that one group should go to central and southern Germany and another group to northern Germany but I am not aware of the fact that the group in Thuringia returned in the direction of Berlin. The group left in Berlin was supposed to go to Hamburg.

Q: Why did the group that went south to Munich not get there?

A: I don't know that.

Q: What were the plans for these parties that went north and south? What were they going to do in Hamburg and Munich?

A: They were supposed to carry on their work that they had done in Berlin. Hamburg was important since all business concerned with foreign trade was concentrated there.

Q: What about Munich?

A: I have not seen any one of the group going down south. The most important members of Department III were supposed to go north but there were two members who had dealt with Croatia who were going down south

Q: What were their names?

A: I don't know their names since I was only familiar with department chiefs, not with different members.

Q: There is great danger that Germany may starve. Germany can have no imports unless she is prepared to pay for them in foreign exchange.

A: We have brought to safety most of the foreign exchange and gold in central Germany, where it has been found by Americans.

Q: Who was the real boss on foreign exchange in Germany?

A: I.

Q: Who controlled devisen?

A: The 4 Years' Plan was over all other Ministries and it had its own reserve at the Reichsbank of foreign exchange. The 4 Years' Plan deposited all other foreign exchange.

Q: Was that true in 1944?

A: Yes.

Q: Who exercised those powers of the 4 Years' Plan in 1944?

A: The foreign exchange was controlled by the Reichsmarshal Goering and his assistants, especially Koerner, Gramsch and Kadgien.

Q: Could it be said that in 1944 or January 1945 the real boss of Foreign Exchange in Germany was Goering?

A: Yes, but he did not look after it very much.

Q: Who did if he didn't?

A: These three men (Koerner, Gramsch and Kadgien). Everytime the Office of the 4 Years' Plan had any requests I was told about it through the Reichsbank.

A 03493

H3241 - 0074

Q: Suppose you and Koerner disagreed, who won out? Did the matter then go from you and Koerner to Goering?

A: I don't remember that there were many cases where there was disagreement but there were many cases where I disagreed with Koerner, he usually let things go at that and would not go to Goering.

Q: So as a practical matter you had the last word?

A: Yes, unless Goering was asked, which wasn't very often. If Koerner disagreed with my decisions he could have gone to the Reichsmarshal and invalidated my decision but that never happened.

Q: Directing your attention to February 1945 what was the total amount of Germany's foreign exchange and gold held in Germany and other currency or bank deposits held outside of Germany?

A: I cannot give any details, but from what Wilhelm told me about that it must have been about 500 million RM.

Q: How much of that was in gold?

A: About 400 million.

Q: Was there only 100 million in devisen?

A: I don't think it was any more, but I really don't know the figures very well.

Q: What do you know?

A: This figure was told me in the beginning of February by Wilhelm and I don't know any other figure.

Q: How much of this was outside Germany?

A: It could only be a question of money in Switzerland and only about 30 million RM there. Wilhelm and Puhl would know exactly.

Q: What kind of foreign currency did Germany hold in February — dollars, pounds, francs or what? Which was the biggest?

A: I don't know that.

Q: Who knows these figues in the Ministry? Kirchfeld?

A: Not so much Kirchfeld but Wilhelm and Puhl.

Q: Did any other agency concern itself with foreign exchangw in Germany other than the Reichsbank, the Ministry of Economics and the 4 Years' Plan

A: No.

Q: Is it not a fact that the Foreign Office had its own devisen?

A: They as well as the Propaganda Ministry received certain sums from the Reichsbank every year.

H3241 – 0075

INTERROGATION OF FUNK

25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: Did the Foreign Office have extensive holdings abroad, about which the Reichsbank may not have been informed?

A: That I do not know. The Foreign Office got a fixed sum evry year, but besides that I don't know.

Q: Who handled problems of foreign exchange and trade in the Foreign Office?

A: Ripken, Wiehl, and Clodius.

Q: Any other agencies?

A: The Wehrmacht also got certain sums.

Q: How were these sums held. In the name of the Reichsbank or in account of the local Wehrmacht or in the name of some third person.

A: In general it was in the name of the Reichsbank, unless there were other individuals of the Foreign Office. It is possible that the Embassy in Madrid asked for foreign exchange from the Foreign Office, but I don't know how that was handled.

Q: In which country did the Reichsbank have its largest holdings?

A: Switzerland.

Q: Second largest?

A: Probably in Sweden. The business in Spain and Portugal was done by way of Switzerland. I don't know of any other accounts. I can imagine that one of the big banks in Germany could have dealt with another private bank in Switzerland, but later on that was not possible in Switzerland.

Q: Why?

A: Since Switzerland introduced a complete control of foreign exchange and it was impossible to transfer foreign exchange from one bank to another in Switzerland.

Q: To what extent were accounts held abroad by German individuals and corporations?

A: I don't know that and I don't think the Reichsbank even knows. I was never informed of these things.

Q: You were head of the Reichsbank?

A: I never had to do with business details of the Reichsbank. The board of directord did that. There is not a single business deal of the Reichsbank that carries my signature.

Q: Are there any other agencies in Germany which may have substantial credits abroad?

A: Only big firms could have credits abroad.

Q: Do you have any idea to what extent firms in Germany had big accounts abroad?

A 03910

H3241 - 0076

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

A: I think that firms had accounts like that, but the Reichsbank would know about it because all accounts abroad had to be registered. Not in all detail but approximately.

Q: Do you remember any large accounts held abroad by German firms?

A: I don't know of any accounts of firms.

Q: As President of the Reichsbank you don't remember any of those?

A: Those registered were long before my time, and as President of the Reichsbank I didn't have anything to do with that.

Q: Who in the Reichsbank would know about accounts of German firms abroad?

A: Puhl and Wilhelm should know about those accounts. I never looked after those foreign accounts. My main business was the domestic financial structure.

Q: If the Ministry of Economics wasn't interested in foreign accounts of industrialists who in the Government was interested in the industrial accounts abroad?

A: Nobody besides the Reichsbank.

Q: When did you leave Berlin?

A: The 15th or 16th of April.

Q: When did you last see Puhl or Wilhelm?

A: Wilhelm, the last day when I left Berlin, but Puhl was in Switzerland at the time for discussions about further sales of gold. I haven't seen Puhl anymore.

Q: Who was in charge of the Reichsbank when you left Berlin?

A: Wilhelm and Kretzschmann.

Q: What instructions did you leave with the Reichsbank with respect to its evacuation from Berlin?

A: The evacuation of the Reichsbank was connected with the general plan for evacuation of the Government. The Reichsbank was suppose to follow to the same place where the Reichs Government went in southern Germany.

Q: Why did it not go there?

A: Only part of the Reichsbank went to southern Germany. The rest could not follow because of military events.

Q: What was the plan for evacuation of the ministries from Berlin?

A: The general plan was that the whole government was supposed to move to southern Germany when Berlin was threatened by the Russians. Certain staff groups went to southern Germany but the rest could not follow. The new set up in southern Germany had not been organized so it was impossible to find anybody.

A 00911

H3241 - 0077

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: In a previous interrogation you told an American Officer you could supply information as to important records of the Ministry of Economics and the Reichsbank.

A: I do not know what has happened to the papers. Secretary of State Hayler was supposed to safeguard those papers to carry on the ministry.

Q: What do you know of the German economy?

A: I don't know anything about foreign exchange or foreign accounts. Probably they have been taken by the Americans. I was concerned with internal German structure and entered the set up to give suggestions to carry on there.

Q: Did not Germany boast that it had invented a new form of currency and a new money system?

A: I have always said that the value of the mark depends on the amount of work that can be done in Germany and before it has been ascertained how much working ability is left in Germany the value of the mark cannot be determined.

Q: Who was your statistical adviser?

A: In the Volkswirtschaftliche Abteilung Dr. Einsiedel was in charge and later von Ricke.

Q: When you wanted statistics for a meeting with the Fuhrer whom did you call?

A: I asked my Secretary of State to get those statistics. Most of the time I only talked to the Secretary of State.

Q: I want to know about the Golddiskontbank.

A: The directors of the Reichsbank were at the same time directors of the Golddiskontbank. The Golddiskontbank has chiefly done the clearing with countries abroad. The main task of the bank was to receive the gold gained through exports and to pay out gold for imports.

Q: Did it perform any other functions?

A: The Golddiskontbank bought German securities abroad.

Q: Did they not also aid the Reichsbank in acquiring various foreign securities, especially during the period of German occupation of France?

A: I don't think regulations were strictly carried through in the case of France, since it was an occupied area.

Q: What happened to these securities?

A: These purchases were done through the Office of the 4 Years' Plan but I don't think that Goering knows much about it, but Neumann should know.

Q: Have you ever heard of the Devisenschutzkommando?

A: Yes, but we didn't have anything to do with it.

Q: What was it?

A03,912

H3241 - 0078

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

A: As far as I know it was first under Goering and then under Himmler.

Q: What was the purpose of it?

A: To find out if foreign exchange was taken abroad unlawfully or if foreign exchange was possessed unlawfully.

Q: What do you know about its operation in occupied France?

A: Nothing. I never had anything to do with it.

Q: Did the Golddiskontbank have anything to do with the Devisenschutz-kommando?

A: Foreign exchange unlawfully owned in Germany was given to the Reichsbank, but I don't know what happened to foreign exchange held unlawfully abroad.

Q: What about foreign exchange seized from France and brought into Germany?

A: I can't tell you. I never had anything to do with that question. The Directors of the Reichsbank may be able to tell that.

Q: Was your position as President of the Reichsbank purely honorary?

A: I was responsible for the monetary and currency policies of the Reichsbank.

Q: What general instructions did you issue as President of the Reichsbank for the plundering of France?

A: I have always been against any plundering in France, against purchases on the black-market there, against any kind of plundering and taking things away from private persons. I don't know anything about any foreign exchange taken from France and in possession of the Reichsbank or private persons.

Q: Isn't it a fact that the Reichsbank had an office in Paris?

A: There was a German Kommissar at the Bank of France, but the Bank of France worked completely independently. In the Reichskreitkasse was a bank of the Military Commander in France but its officials were members of the Reichsbank.

Q: What general instructions were given to the Kommissar at the Bank of France with respect to securing foreign exchange in occupied France.

A: The same regulations were established in France as in Germany. All foreign exchange had to be registered and turned in.

Q: What happened to that foreign exchange?

A: I don't know any details about what happened to it.

Q: How much did the Reichsbank get out of occupied France?

A: I don't know.

Q: How about gold?

A: As far as I know, no gold was taken out of France except the Belgian gold.

A 094913

H3241 - 0079

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: How did you get the Belgian gold?

A: The Foriegn Office and the Office of the 4 Years' Plan which were concerned in this question asked the French Government to give up the Belgian gold.

Q: Didn't the Reichsbank have anything to do with it?

A: The Reichsbank didn't even want to take the gold but was forced to do so later on. The Reichsbank didn't want to take the gold because the ownership was not determined. - There are documents to that effect.

Q: Where are the documents?

A: If they were not burned, they must be in Berlin.

Q: Did you have them burned?

A: I have not burned anything.

Q: What did the Golddiskontbank do in France?

A: I don't know. Dr. Michol can give the exact details about foreign currency laws in France and their application.

Q: Directing your attention now to the German decree issued September 4, 1939 for the prevention of hoarding, was this law effective?

A: The law was not very successful. There were a few law suits but it was found out later on that since there were very few consumers' goods people had plenty of money to spend and that money wasn't worth very much. The law wasn't very successful. Only during the last months, the Germans really started to hoard money, but the law was no longer applied.

Q: Did it have any effect on reducing the circulation of currency?

A: No.

Q: How do you explain the present shortage of currency?

A: Because big amounts, many billions, are in the private strong boxes of private people being hoarded and not being put on the market. Also very little money has been issued during the last few months because many of the printing presses have been destroyed, especially in southern Germany where no money was issued at all.

Q: What is your estimate of the totlal amount of currency outstanding at this time?

A: 65 billion.

Q: What was the circulation of currency in 1933?

A: 4 billion and at the beginning of the war approximately 7 billion.

Q: You already have currency inflation in Germany, is that correct?

A: As long as price control and wage control exists this money can do no harm.

A 03914

H3241 - 0080

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
25 June 1945 (Afternoon)

Q: Does not this large amount of currency put a great pressure on the black market and violation of price control?

A: As long as there is a strong authority in the state, this money can do no harm. The black market has only developed during the last few months. No black market existed before that in Germany.

Q: Now that German insurance companies are cut off from foreign companies can they obtain adequate reinsurance within Germany?

A: That can only be answered after the value of Germany's securities and governmental bonds has been decided because most of the holdings of the insurance companies are in governmental bonds.

Q: How did the "Reichsaufsichtamt" (Reich Control Office) exercise its control of insurance companies?

A: It was centalized in Berlin and only issued certain general directives.

Q: Was this organizationin existence in March 1945?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you ever heard of Staffelt?

A: No.

Q: Do you know Schellenberg?

A: He was a man under Himmler.

Q: What did he have to do with devisen?

A: Schellenberg was the successor to Canaris. Canaris and Schellenberg received devisen, but I only found out about the amout when all German exchange and gold were taken out of Berlin in March because I was told that certain amounts would have to remain in Berlin to be given to Canaris and Schellenberg, 300,000 marks a month.

Q: Did the Reichsbank pay out devisen to Schellenberg? For how long a period?

A: I only found out about it in February 1945.

Q: What did you think when you found out about it?

A: It is very undertandable that the State has to pay for such expenses.

Q: What did Schellenberg bring into the Reichsbank in the form of devisen?

A: He didn't pay in any foreign currency.

A 03915

H3241 - 0081

INTERROGATION OF GOERING
25 June 1945 (Evening)

Q: We will continue with the Four Years' Plan. Who are Staffelt and Schellenberg?

A: Staffelt is Chief of the Devisenfahndungsamt. Schellenberg was Intelligence Chief of Himmler but had nothing to do with the Four Years' Plan.

Q: Did Schellenberg have anything to do with Devisenschutzkommando?

A: He did not have anything to do with it. If he did, it was unauthorized.

Q: Is Staffelt alive?

A: Yes. I think he is alive but I have not heard from him in 2 years.

Q: To the best of your knowledge is he still connected with the Four Years' Plan?

A: I don't think so. He had some difficulty with Himmler. Schellenberg was the successor of Canaris when Himmler took over the Intelligence Service.

Q: Do you think he is a dangerous man?

A: I have heard he is in Sweden. Since he has a job like that he probably is a dangerous man but I have never met him as far as I know.

Q: If we want to find out more information about the Devisenfahndungsamt whom do you suggest as a good source?

A: Staffelt if he is still alive, otherwise probably Koerner knows more than I.

Q: The Devisenfahndungsamt was probably created with the invasion of Frnace. Is that right?

A: It existed before the war.

Q: Was it a very large organization?

A: Not very large.

Q: Was it the organization that was concerned with the Law against sabotage of the Economy of December 1,1936?

A: It existed before that law.

Q: What agency enforced this law?

A: There were different agencies, for example Customs Officials, Police, and Devisenfahndungsamt officials.

A 034316

Q: About what time was the Devisenschutzkommando established in the Four Years' Plan?

A: I don't remember exactly but probably very soon after that law which was December 1936.

Q: What would you say was the annual take of that agency?

A: That is impossible to say.

Q: Was it worth the effort?

A: I couldn't say at all. I did not ask for any information about that. The Reichsbank should know about it.

Q: This morning you omitted onw of your jobs which sounded important, Chairman of the Ministerial Council of Reich Defense. What was it?

A: We only had two sessions.

Q: But you signed the laws?

A: When war started Hitler was not interested for a while to sign any laws so they were sent to me and I signed as Chief of the Four Years' Plan or as Chairman of the Ministerial Council for Defense of the Reich, but later on Hitler decided again to sign laws himself.

Q: Did a law dated December 3, 1938 depriving Jews of their property rights have anything to do with the Four Years' Plan?

A: There was such a time of lawlessness it was necessary to put up laws concerning Jewish property. Since at that time all laws were actually signed in the name of the Four Years' Plan this was also signed that way.

Q: Explain the bad situation.

A: There was, as I said before, a period of great lawlessness and something had to be done, otherwise there was danger that this lawlessness would have gone on and taken much greater proportions.

Q: Who was lawless - the Jews or the Germans?

A: The persons who took the property from the Jews.

Q: Does it make sense to punish the victims of lawlessness?

A: No, but also some of the others were punished.

Q: Who?

A: Some of those who committed robberies were punished. Since the laws were ordered from above, they had to be written up.

Q: Now another decree signed by you imposing an atonement fine of 1 billion RM on Jewish subjects.

A: That was ordered by Hitler.

A 03917

H3241 - 0082

H3241 - 0083

Q: Are you ashamed of that?

A: In that time we were not clear about that.

Q: Are you clear now?

A: I don't think that that law was correct.

Q: Then you are ashamed of having signed that document, or is a German Field Marshal never ashamed?

A: I don't have to answer that question under the Geneva Convention.

Q: You are no longer a prisoner of war. The war with Germany is over and Germany has unconditionally surrendered to the United Nations. Do you wish to answer that question?

A: I regret it. You must think of the time.

Q: Germany was going to conquer the world.

A: Germany didn't want to do that.

Q: On November 12, 1938 there was another law ordering the Jews whose property had been destroyed to repair it and they lost all insurance claims. What about this law?

A: That was one of the sequence of laws suggested by the Party.

Q: You say the Four Years' Plan did a lot of dirty work. Is that correct?

A: In this case, unfortunately.

Q: I want you to tell me about Krauch of I.G. He worked for you in the Four Years' Plan, did he not?

A: Yes, I did not know Krauch until I appointed him on the suggestion of somebody whose name I do not remember. He is one of the ablest men we have in the chemical industry.

Q: When was he appointed to the Four Years' Plan?

A: The end of 1936 or beginning of 1937.

Q: Was this a full time job?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he continue to work for I.G. Farben?

A: I don't think he had the time since he was working for us.

Q: What do you know about Anorgana and Montana? Did Krauch ever tell you about these companies?

A: Never.

A004-18

Q: You told an American officer that the Four Years' Plan operated all through the occupied areas.

A: Yes, with certain changes for the occupied areas.

Q: One of the important functions of the Four Years' Plan was to find foreign exchange in these occupied areas and secure it on behalf of the Germans? Is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Was all this foreign exchange turned into the Reichsbank or did it go somewhere else?

A: As far as it was found by the Devisenschutzkommando or by the Four Years' Plan it was either sent to the Reichsbank or if used right away registered with the Reichsbank.

Q: Suppose the office of the Four Years' Plan got them in another manner than through the Devisenschutzkommando?

A: They had to be registered with the Reichsbank if they were found by an official of the Four Years' Plan.

Q: When were you last in Switzerland?

A: 1930 or 1931 probably. Certainly before 1932.

Q: When you went to Italy did you go by way of Switzerland?

A: Never through Switzerland.

Q: Hoffer purchased many works of art for you in Switzerland. Is that right?

A: Not very many, but some.

Q: What sort of purchases have you made in Switzerland?

A: Some goblets and some pictures.

Q: Anything else?

A: I think once a gothic chair.

Q: Do you have a safe deposit box or bank account in Switzerland?

A: No. Hoffer always took the money with him.

Q: You have received many gifts since 1933 from the German State and from various people?

A: That's right - for my birthday and Christmas.

Q: You told an American officer that Fritz Thyssen gave you very substantial gifts?

A: Thyssen has given me some presents. One wedding present and a birthday present. I think that's all I ever received from him.

Q: When was Thyssen returned to the Germans by the French?

A: 1940, right after the Armistice.

H3241 - 0084

H3241 - 0085

Q: What gifts has Thyssen given you since that time?

A: Not a copper coin.

Q: What about land?

A: Not a piece of land.

Q: What is the largest gift you have received from the German State, the German people or private individuals?

A: It is difficult to say since it is difficult to compare the various gifts. A gift from the State was given through the Fuhrer.

Q: Did you get anything worth over a million marks?

A: Definitely not. I think that the most valuable was a box I received from the Fuhrer when I was made Reichsmarshall.

Q: What did the box contain?

A: A document covered with precious stones and gold.

Q: You told an American officer about the development of Russian and German collaboration.

A: Up to 1900 Russia and Germany were very close. The German Officer Corps had great respect for Russia and always saw them at their very best in St. Petersburg. Right now, at first everybody was very much afraid of the Russians and went toward the American area but afterwards especially among the younger officers it was felt that perhaps the Germans had made a mistake and should have gone in the other direction. Right after the Russians got to Berlin, after the collapse, they did a skillful job of propaganda over the radio. They said that the wheel of history could not be turned back, that Germany could not be divided up again and they started to open Berlin theaters right away. They promised a future for Germany and on that occasion I remembered how back in history from 1860 the Russians always have fought on the side of the Prussians and even after the last war when Germany was not allowed to have a great army of its own, Germans learned to fly planes in Russia and to drive tanks there and from then on the German officers always had a great respect for Russian officers. The Russians did a very skillful job of propaganda. They let Berlin citizens tell the rest of the Germans that everything was alright, but over here in this region we got the opposite impression. Even then I said that I thought this probably was propaganda and not the truth.

Q: How long do you think you would live if you were turned over to the Russians?

A: Not very long.

Q: Who gave you Burg Veldenstein?

A: That's where I grew up. It belonged to one of my God-fathers. It comes from my family.

H3241 - 0086

Q: Now we have a long list of medals, foreign decorations, etc., about 8 pages of them. The greatest collection of medals in the world. Is that right?

A: All the Allies of Germany sent them.

Q: Who has more medals than you in Germany?

A: The Crown Prince of Germany. Hitler never took any medals so I got them as second in command.

Q: You didn't care for these medals?

A: As for the foreign medals I never wore them more than 2 or 3 times, only when the Ministers of foreign countries came.

Q: How valuable do you regard your 3 chests of stamp collections?

A: Those were all new postage stamps which were sent to me by the Postmaster General.

Q: Germany is today in a great state of chaos and there is danger that there will be a food shortage whis winter. Can you make any suggestions how that condition might be improved?

A: I see the greatest danger in the fact that the greatest part of Germany has been destroyed through the war; that very little could be done or can be done at the moment and that through the advance of the Russians, which is still taking place, and through the fact that England is weak and American does not show enough interest in Europe there is a great danger of advances toward communism. To this should be added skillful Russian propaganda over the radio which also reaches non-Russian occupied areas. Also the fact that the terror about the Russians is receding and that people are now afraid of a division of the Reich and are beginning to think that a united Reich even under Russian domination would be better.

Q: Do you agree that the most important problem at present for Germany is the feeding of the people?

A: Yes, absolutely.

Q: If Germany has any bank balances, credits or assets in neutral countries it would be helpful for us to know that in order that possibly food might be obtained by the use of those credits. Can you help us on suggestions?

A: I don't know of any of those accounts but Puhl or Wilhelm should know about it, possibly also Funk and Ritter in the Foreign Office. I think that those accounts should definitely be used for the purposes of buying food for Germany.

Q: Wouldn't Funk know this very definitely?

A: Funk should know about the bank accounts. Maybe not the small ones but certainly the big accounts.

#034,381

H3241 - 0087

Q: Great Britain is short on food and a law in the United States prohibits sending any food to Germany, so she will have to pay for her own imports. There will also be tremendous reparations payable to Russia.

A: A magician will have to do that.

Q: Stalin is a magician?

A: But he does his magic by means which you do not like.

Q: Who is you?

A: The Americans.

Q: Stalin is our Ally.

A: After all we know the Russian means. It is said that there is more food available in Berlin now than when the German Government was there. If there should be hunger in Germany I think there will be complete chaos in Germany.

Q: Would Germany have ever entertained this large program of aggression if they had not had full support of the industrialists all the way through?

A: The industrialists are Germans. They had to support their country.

Q: Were theyy forced to do so or did they do so voluntarily?

A: They did it voluntarily but if they would have refused the state would have stepped in.

Q: Do you think the state would have been strong enough to have forced the big industry into war if it did not want war?

A: When the call came for war every industry followed without any difficulty from inner convictions.

Q: Is it true that some of these large industries in Germany have substantial interest in other countries?

A: Certainly, but I don't know any particular cases, and I don!t know to what extent the war has changed those interests. The first important job is that transportation has to be reestablished in Germany. That was especially difficult during the last weeks of the war, because railroads could not go to all parts of the country.

Q: Is there any possibility of using assets in neutral countries?

A: If they exist they will have to be used.

Q: Have you heard of any accounts which the German State or organizations had in neutral countries?

A: The Foreign Office had certain accounts and it is possible that in certain neutral countries there are still positive trade balances.

A 03-122

Q: What countries would they be?

A: Sweden, Switzerland and possibly Spain. I don't think there are any in South America unless from balances before the war because there were no connections during the war.

Q: Do you think it is possible for Germany to produce enough food to take care of its own people?

A: The part of Germany occupied by America and England is not self-sufficient unless the part occupied by the Russians is sending food to the other parts. The part under Russia is self-sufficient.

Q: If it is possible for us to take all the food produced in all zones and distribute it equally can Germany take care of her people?

A: It would be difficult but possible.

Q: If by taking the food together with coal production, would it be possible for the population to be fed by exchanging coal for food?

A: Since industry is destroyed not much coal will be used in Germany and if coal production could be raised to a high level this probably would be a means of feeding Germany.

Q: Do you think coal exports in addition to food raised in the country would be able to feed Germany's people over a period of years?

A: There will be an excess of coal which can be exported.

Q: In your opinion, it would not have been necessary to start a war after the Austrian and Sudeten question had been solved. Is that right?

A: There were many quarrels about the question with the Fuhrer, but the Fuhrer decided on war and, of course, every German followed the order. The English Ambassador to Berlin at that time knows very well what position I took at that moment.

Q: But the Ambassador is dead?

A: He has written up his papers and the English Government knows it.

Q: Would the German people be satisfied to be an agricultural country?

A: No, why should it be? With its abilities it could also be industrial. It couldn't live on agriculture alone. If Germany had to import all agricultural machinery there would be no possibility of exporting anything. Germany needs clothing and railroads. All that has to be built also, and industry is necessary for living.

Q: We couldn't trust Germany to have heavy industry again, because there would be the case of another war?

A: You have the power and the responsibility also.

H3241 – 0088

H3241 - 0089

Q: As I understand it, Nazism had its roots in what you might call a disappointed people--unemployed officers like you who couldn't find a career in Germany?

A: It was not a question of position. I had a job. It was the question that Germany could not be satisfied with the Versailles Treaty.

Q: Under the Versailler Treaty Germany at least was a state. Do you understand that?

A: I understand.

Q: Where did Nazism find its roots?

A: In all the people who did not want to have the Versailles Treaty over them and also in economic conditions. No work and so on. Some people went to the extreme left and others to the extreme right.

Q: In the growth of the Party who were your converts among the industrialists besides Thyssen prior to 1932?

A: I think Kirdorf in the Ruhr industry. He assembled a circle of industrialists.

Q: The industrialists came in 1930 and 1931?

A: I don't know, I have never worked in the party. I only worked for the State.

Q: You have impressed me, Reichsmarshal , as being a very smart man. Who in the east helped you?

A: No supporters. Silesia was all Catholic and they did not support the party.

Q: Who im Hamburg?

A: I don't think anybody in Hamburg. The main support was in the Ruhr.

Q: Who in Berlin?

A: I don't think Siemens, he was too closely connected with the Democrat Party. The banks did not give anything.

Q: Have you read Thyssen's book "I Paid Hitler"?

A: No.

Q: Have you heard of the book?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the most hazardous time in the life of the party?

A: After 1923.

Q: After 1928?

A: 1929 and 1930 was probably the most difficult time since communism was much stronger.

1 09-324

H3241 - 0090

Q: After the party came into power in 1933 and following the Reichstag fire would they not have lost the election if there had been no fire?

A: The outcome of the election had nothing to do with the fire. There was a wave going through the country and everybody was flocking to the party.

Q: I mean the election in March 1933?

A: There were several elections but when the party got into power one of its first acts was to have a general election right away and the date was fixed before the fire, but in that election the party got more than half of the votes. There was also a second election that year.

Q: It did not have two-thirds majority required under the Constitution?

A: Only in the second election.

Q: In both elections it had the general support of German industry, did it not?

A: Yes, we had the support of all industry.

Q: This support took the form of large financial contributions to the party, did it not?

A: I don't remember what funds were paid after the party got into power. That's a question for the treasury of the party. Unity between the State and Party never existed. They were always two separate things. In the end there was only the Party. It stood over the State.

A031225

H3241 – 0091

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
IN THE PRECENSE OF GOERING
(25 June 1945 (evening)

Q: We told the Reichsmarshal about our fears that Germany would experience very serious economic chaos. We discussed this same question with you this afternoon. The Reichsmarshal pointed out that this problem was particularly serious in view of the fact that the area under Russian occupation contains the greater share of agricultural production. We also told the Reichsmarshal that the chances are that England will be deficient in food for several years to come and that, of course, it is unlawful for the American government to supply any materials to Germany except for payment in foreign exchange. This accordingly makes the problem of Germany's assets abroad of crucial significance to Germany itself, particularly those assets in neutral countries. What can you tell us at this time of the status of Germany's foreign assets.

Funk: The German Reichsbank has only one big account abroad. That in Switzerland which amounts to perhaps 35 million RM at the most. There may be very small assets in Sweden.

Q: What about Spain?

Funk: There can be no assets of the Reichsbank in Spain.

Q: What about assets held by German corporations?

Funk: By one law of the 4 Years' Plan all foreign holdings had to be registered with the Reichsbank, therefore, the companies converted their assets into gold and deposited that gold with the Reichsbank. It amounts to between 70 and 80 million RM. Of course, it is actually still the property of the companies.

Q: Is this the total amount of foreign exchange held by Germany or German nationals abroad?

Funk: Any other assets should have been registered with the Reichsbank. I think that big companies such as I.G. Farben should at this moment have credits abroad on the basis of participations which they have abroad.

(The Reichsmarshall asks if there had not been payments to Sweden for goods not yet received so that there should be a trade balance in Sweden but Funk states that in the end, trade with Sweden was on a very small scale and perhaps that the trade balance would be not more than possibly 7 million Swedish crowns.)

Q: These numbers apply to the beginning of February. Is it smaller or larger now?

Funk: Smaller. I do not think that at the moment there are more than 50 million worth of foreign exchange available including holdings in Switzerland and Sweden. I do not know how much foreign exchange was found by the Americans. Perhaps an amount of 1 Million was left in Berlin in some banks, and there should have been small deposits of gold in Constance.

Q: Several questions were asked this afternoon as to foreign holdings. What can you, Goering, add?

1994936

SECRET

H3241 - 0092

INTEROGATION OF FUNK
(IN THE PRECENSE OF GOERING)
25 June 1945 (Evening)

Goering:-Funk has said that in February there were between 80 and 100 million RM in foreign exchange. In the course of one or two months no considerable amount of that could have been spent so there still should have been a much greater amount left when the collapse came in March regardless of whether those amounts were deposited in Merkers or sent to southern Germany on any where else.

Funk:-I do not know how much gold and foreign exchange was sent to Merkers. The payment of foreign exchange was continued approximately until April 20. In Switzerland alone payments of foreign exchange amounted to between 6 and 7 millions a month for interest and other expenses. There should be papers in Munich which indicate clearly how much foreign exchange is still available.

Q: Let us recall again the testimony you, Funk, gave this afternoon in which, as I understood you, you gave the following statement. You stated that major issues of foreign exchange were handled by the 4 Years' Plan, either by Goering or in his absence, by Koerner. Is that correct?

Funk: For the 4 Years' Plan, foreign exchange was always available since the major part of German holdings in foreign exchange was collected with the help of decrees of the 4 Years' Plan.

Goering:-There has always been one part of the foreign exchange fund in the Reichsbank reserved for the use of the 4 Years' Plan. Those funds could only be used with the approval of the 4 Years' Plan. After 1942 I was only consulted three times., about disposal of gold to Rumania, to Greece, and in the third case, when Ribbentrop asked for an Italian gold fund but was refused.

Q: What kind of matters did you take up with Koerner?

Funk: There were constant dealings between Koerner and the directors of the Reichsbank but only in one case did the directors consult the President of the Reichsbank, and that was the case where weapons were to be bought from certain partisans in Italy and Croatia. This purchase was refused by the Reichsbank president and sales were broken off.

Q: Do I understand from you, Funk, testimony that the Office of the 4 Years' Plan continued to be active until Germany's collapse in March or April 1945?

Funk: The officials of the 4 Years' Plan continued to deal with the directorium of the Reichsbank in matters of foreign exchange through 1944.

Goering:-Starting in 1942 I did not have anything to do with foreign currency in the Reichsbank except for the three cases stated above, but Koerner continued to be in the Central Planning Office of Speer and in that position continued to draw on the foreign exchange fund in the Reichsbank which originally belonged to the 4 Years' Plan.

INTERROGATION ON FUNK
(IN THE PRECENSE OF GOERING)
26 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: Our investigation of foreign exchange can be explained only in terms of the complete panic and stupidity of the German personnel. The chief personnel were concerned with finding comfortable billets in mountain resorts and watering places and did not seem to give a damn about the records and activities of the Ministry. We found that the party left Berlin and went to Bad Solzungen but they left there leaving their records behind, and moved back toward Berlin, and then they

A034927

H3241 - 0093

scattered north and south. When they got north they went in the finest hotels in Hamburg and didn't do anything. Those that went south went to Bad Wiesse, a very beautiful place on the Tegernsee, and did nothing. Some of them landed up at Attenhausen, small town of about 250 population, and there they are tending pigs. Is that the way the evacuation of the Department of Foreign Exchange was planned?

Funk: Certainly not.

Q: What was it then?

Funk: Since the Russians got close to Berlin in the beginning of February it was decided that the Ministry of Economics, the Reichsbank and all other Ministries were to be evacuated to places in Thuringia, since the region on the east bank of the Rhine was still completely free and not occupied by the Allies, and in this way part of the Ministry of Economics got to Bad Salzungen, Weimar, and Erfurt. The gold and foreign exchange was brought to Merkers by train, but the registration of foreign exchange was still carried on in Berlin and there was still enough foreign exchange left in Berlin to satisfy all demands that were made.

Q: How much?

Funk: Demands of the economy [illegible] Foreign Office for regular payments which had to be made every month. Around, Easter, Thuringia was occupied by the Allies and the gold and foreign exchange at Merkers fell into the hands of the Americans. Before the Allies took Merkers a small amount of foreign exchange was brought back to Berlin. It was essentially the amount of foreign exchange which was later on sent down south again with the 10 tons of gold.

Q: Did you leave any gold in Berlin?

Funk: I don't think so.

Q: What kind of devisen?

Funk: I think about 1 million RM worth of foreign exchange was left in Berlin.

Q: Do you know the composition?

Funk: No.

Q: Did you ever send gold from Berchtesgaden to Mittenwald?

Funk: No.

Q: What was in the 11 cases you sent from Berchtesgaden to Mittenwald? You know that you sent these boxes. The driver said that he was ordered by Dr. Funk.

Funk: I don't know anything about these boxes. I have never had any boxes sent from Berchtesgaden. There must be some error. There has been no gold in Berchtesgaden.

Q: What do you know about the devisen in Egor? Schultze-Schlutius said that in March there were 10 million in bank-notes shipped out of Berlin. 6 million to middle Germany, 1 million to Egor and 3 million to northern Germany.

A034928

H3241 - 0094

INTERROGATION ON FUNK
(IN THE PRESENCE OF GOERING)
26 June1945 (Morning)

Funk: I don't know anything about that. Wilhelm should know of it. I was never told about it.

Q: Schultze-Schlutius said that in Switzerland, Germany had credits of 1 billion Swiss francs. Is that right?

Funk: That is not true, that was several years ago.

Q: He said that the credit was established in 1942 and it is much larger at this time.

Funk: He must have lied. All I know is that this credit no longer exists.

Q: What do you have to say about Kirchfeld?

Funk: Kirchfeld spent many years abroad. He was one of the best German businessmen in foreign trade. When in atumn of 1943 the Ministry of Economics was more or less changed into a Ministry of Trade, Hitler suggested that Kirchfeld should be called upon since he was one of the best experts in the field of foreign trade.

Q: Whom did he replace?

Funk: He took the place of under-secretary Jagwitz.

Q: What happened to Jagwitz?

Goering: Jagwitz had been in the 4 Years' Plan but later on when the 4 Years' Plan went over into the different ministries, Jagwitz went into the Ministry of Economics.

Q: Do you know that Kirchfeld still had an income of 300,000 RM from industry?

Funk: When Kirchfeld entered the Ministry it was under the condition that he would cease all private business connections. This is the first time that I have heard he still had a private income after that.

Q: Kirchfeld told me that he spent 15 days a month in Essen working for Farrostahl and 15 days a month in Berlin working for the Ministry. Is that right?

Funk: I had agreed with Kirchfeld that he would have to work full time for the Ministry. Only in January 1945 it was agreed that he should return to Farrostahl since one of the directors had fallen ill.

Q: We checked in Essen and found that he worked there half of the entire time he was in the Ministry.

Funk: Then this was contrary to the agreements which had been made by me.

Q: Don't you know what goes on in your Ministry? He was one of your main assistants.

Funk: If he would have worked 15 days in Essen I would have noticed it. He was always at my disposal at Berlin when I needed him.

Q: He said he didn't want to work in the Ministry but since he was a reserve officer in the Luftwaffe he was threatened with induction into the Luftwaffe and therefore went to work for the Ministry.

A 093929

H3241 - 0095

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
(IN THE PRESENSE OF GOERING)
26 June 1945 (Morning)

Funk: That's a lie. Not a word is true. He came to us completely voluntarily.

Q: A salary of 300 thousnad RM is one of the largest paid in Germany, is it not?

Goering: That is more than my pay as Reichsmarshal.

(The Reichsmarshal further told Funk that since Kirchfeld had such a high pay it seems that certain special arrangements would have been made for his transfer to the Ministry since the Ministry in all probability would not pay more than 15 thousand RM a year.)

Q: He said he served as a "dollar-a-year" man.

Funk: He was not an official. He did not have the same title as Jagwitz and therefore had to wait when he wanted to see people. He has never been an official.

(Goering suggested perhaps the agreement was that his pay from Farrostahl should go on but Funk states that this was not the case. In the Speer Ministry it was very usual that people were taken from industry.

Q: Kirchfeld was an old Nazi. Do you have anything further to say about Kirchfeld?

Funk: He was very industrious, but I did not know him before he came to the Ministry.

Q: What do you think of Schultze-Schlutius?

Funk: He always did his job expertly. He was not considered a very capable man, but always did his job to full satisfaction. In the end he especially handled foreign trade discussions with Czechoslovakia.

Q: Didn't Rheinhardt do that? Schultze-Schlutius told me he was in charge of all matters other than southeast. Both Rheinhardt and Schultze-Schlutius told me the opposite of what you are saying. Don't you know what goes on in your own Ministry?

Funk: Rheinhardt worked at first in Czechoslovakia, Croatia and Yugoslavia but when the job became to great, Schultze-Schlutius took over Czechoslovakia and made frequent trips to Pressberg but at the same time he was in charge of the Laender sections of the Ministry.

Q: Reichsmarshal, do you know Schultze-Schlutius?

Goering: No.

Q: Do you recall Bethge?

Goering: Yes.

Q: Tell me what you know about Bethge?

Goering: Bethge was a helper of Jagwitz in the 4 Years' Plan and later went to the Ministry of Economics, acting in Spain and founding the Rowak Company there.

Q: What was the purpose of the Rowak Company?

A 094930

H3241 - 0096

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
(IN THE PRESENSE OF GOERING)
26 June 1945 (Morning)

Goering: I want to say first of all that this was a double company, Rowak-Hismar. The main purpose of this company was to make purchases of needed raw materials in Spain, such as copper, wolfram and sulphur. Also to acquire mining rights in Spain to secure further deliveries of certain raw materials.

Q: Was it not in fact an import monopoly whereby all imports from Spain had to clear through the Rowak Company?

Goering: I think only in the beginning.

Q: Do you wish to add anything else?

Goering: The importance of Rowak existed mainly during the Spanish Civil War. We sent weapons to Spain and in this way acquired credit there. It was the task of Rowak to receive goods from Spain in exchange. Later on after the end of the Civil War, there were new trade agreements with Spain and Rowak only did part of the trading.

Q: Funk, do you wish to add anything further?

Funk: Those trade agreements were conducted through regular channels.

Q: Is it correct to say that the Rowak Company was the economic device by which Germany assisted Franco in Spain?

Funk: Yes.

Goering: That is true, but the Rowak Company did not have anything to do with the Ministry of Economics but was directly under the 4 Years' Plan under Jagwitz. When Jagwitz went over to the Ministry of Economics he took Rowak along with him.

Q: Was the Rowak Company in 1943 and 1944 the principal instrument of the German Government for the purchase of wolfram in Spain?

Goering: That is probably true, but I did not have much to do with it at that time. As far as I know all ore was handled through Rowak except iron ore.

Q: Handled how ?

Goering: There probably was a direct agreement between industry and mining interests in Spain.

Q: Has the monetary obligations of France to Germany been paid off or are there still amounts owed by the Franco government?

Goering: Franco still owes money to Germany. All the amounts for the Civil War.

Q: Is not that an item of Germany's foreign exchange?

Goering: That has never been carried as a foreign exchange credit since it was never clear if this would be paid at all. There have been discussions on that point, but there has never been any decision made.

Q: What would you estimate the present outstanding amount to be?

SECRET

282802

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
(IN THE PRECENSE OF GOERING)
26 June 1945 (Morning)

Goering: As far as I remember 300 million RM. That was for the delivery of weapons which is outside the Ministry of Economics.

Q: Would Schwerin-Krosigk know?

Goering: He would not know but OKW would know.

Q: What other debts are owed Germany of this nature? Any from Hungary, Rumania or Finland?

Goering: Certainly there is no debt from Rumania, but possibly there is a small debt owed by Finland.

Q: Getting back to Franco's debt. Are there any documents acknowledging that debt on behalf of Spain?

Goering: There should be such documents at the Foreign Office.

Q: Would Ribbentrop know?

Goering: He should know.

Q: What about Turkey?

Funk: That account should be completely cleared.

Q: What about Japan?

Funk: At the very end there were very complicated discussions with Japan about patent rights but they were not finished.

Q: Then Japan is a bad debt?

Funk: We would not accept their yen in the end since no value existed for it in Europe. We only could help the Japanese in Europe by giving them credits in foreign exchange, for example in Swiss francs.

Q: Kirchfeld told me that Jagwitz had difficulties with the Nazis and was fired. Is that right?

Goering and Funk: Jagwitz was a very ardent Nazi.

Q: Why did he leave the Ministry?

Funk: Because of his long illness. He could not carry on his work, and it was agreed that he should leave the Ministry.

Q: Kirchfeld is a great liar apparently.

Goering: Jagwitz was an old party member and he was one of the few officials who always wore his party uniform at work.

Q: Did you know Landwehr? Where is he now? He was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944.

Funk: His wife gave refuge to one of the conspirators and we received a note from Bormann or Himmler that Landwehr should be dismissed.

Q: What did you do?

Funk: He was dismissed.

A091932

SECRET

H3241 -0097

H3241 - 0098

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
(IN THE PRESENCE OF GOERING)
26 June 1945 (Morning)

Q: Have you heard of him since?

Funk: No.

Q: Was he a capable fellow?

Funk: He was quite old, but he knew his job.

Q: Getting back to Bethge. Bethge told me he was a good Nazi.

Goering: He was sent up from the Party.

Q: Do you know where or when he joined the Party?

Goering: No. Funk: No.

Q: Do you know Kuhlemann?

Funk: No.

A 09[illegible]3

H3241 - 0099

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF SCHWERIN-KROSIGK
(In presence of Goering and Funk)

26 June 1945 (morning)

Q: You have been Minister of Finance for many, many years. When did you become Minister?

A: 1932

Q: Before that were you an official in the Ministry of Finance?

A: Yes.

Q: Since when?

A: 1920.

Q: What can you tell me about the total amount of German currency outstanding at this time?

A: I don't know at this moment, but as far as I remember, in April it was between 60 and 65 billions.

Q: You told an American officer on 4 June quite a different figure.

Q: Yes.

Q: Was that a mistake?

A: Yes. I only remembered the figure which I had seen when I made some tax computations, but the next day after making that statement I made a correction.

Q: To whom?

A: In a written resumé of what I had said the day before.

Q: Do you remember the figure you told the American officer on the 4th of June? You said it was 40 billion.

A: Yes.

Q: Krosigk, you are the Minister of Finance. That's a large mistake to make. What kind of an official are you?

FUNK: The data of the Reichsbank were usually 2 or 3 weeks late, so that the Minister of Finance could not exactly know what the correct figure was at the moment.

Q: You mean 25 billion was the lag of 3 weeks?

FUNK: No, 40 billion was definitely too low. 50 had already been given out.

Q: Funk, it is your opinion that in April the circulation was what?

A: It should have been about 60 billion.

A 094334

SECRET

H3241 -0100

Q: What was the monthly rate of increase?

FUNK: During the last months we had an increase up to 3 billion a month.

Q: Goering, do you know anything about this?

GOERING: I never considered those questions.

Q: We will assume that it is 60 billion. How much was Rentenmarks and who printed the Rentenmarks?

A: Rentenmarks were administered by the Reichsbank. About 2 billion were in Rentenmarks or perhaps a little less. The question whether more Rentenmarks should be printed was always discussed between the Reichsbank and the Finance Ministry.

Q: What denominations?

A: Only 1 and 2 marks.

Q: What happened to the 5 Rentenmark bills?

A: The Rentenmark notes were exchanged sometime during the war into other bank notes.

Q: What was the total number of Reichsmarks and Rentenmarks at the end of 1943?

FUNK: About 35 to 36 billions at the end of 1943. Between 40 and 45 billion at the end of 1944. The rapid increase only occurred later on.

Q: The currency is more or less out of control. Is that right?

A: The difficulties of controlling currency arose in the winter of 1944 1945.

Q: Is that right?

FUNK: Yes, chiefly through the destruction of railroads and mail service, and because people started hoarding money at home. Between 12 and 15 billion marks are being hoarded by private individuals.

Q: What are the denominations of the Reichsbank notes currently outstanding?

FUNK: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 1000 marks.

Q: Is the 1000 mark note in general circulation or is it confined to banks?

FUNK: In general circulation.

Q: Is there a larger note?

FUNK: There was no larger note. The 1000 mark note was not liked by the people, since there was a fear that one day it would be called in.

A 004735

H3241-0101

Q: Directing your attention to 1944, what were the total expenditures for military and civilian purposes of the German Government, including Communes, etc.?

A: Something over 100 billions.

Q: How much was raised in taxes in Germany?

A: There was about 36 billion for the Reich and all in all between 45 and 50 billion.

Q: Of these 36 billion how much was tax revenue and how much was non-tax revenue?

A: For the fiscal year ending April 1, 1944 the Reich tax receipts were 31 billion. As far as I remember, that represented a little more than 30% of the total expenses of the Reich.

Q: How large were the expenditures of the Laender and Gemeinden?

A: Expenses were approximately 80 billion for the Reich and 15 billion for the Laender and other political sub-divisions.

Q: Taxes of 31 billions. How did you get 36 billion?

A: As a revenue from railroads, mail, interest on credits and other items amounting to approximately 5 or 6 billion.

Q: With the exception of State railroads, were any other Reich enterprises producing income in 1944 or were they operating on a deficit?

A: Railroads, mail and Reich works showed income. It is different with works like the ermann Goering Works, which were in the status of being built and therefore had to use money of the income for further expansion.

Q: That answer is obviously contrary to the accounting provided in the Reichshaushaltgesetz. Expenditures for capital improvements are not taken from receipts but must be provided in a separate manner. I'm asking about current operations of Hermann Goering Works, were they operating at a deficit? Did current output equal current intake? Does it surprise you (Goering) that you were operating on a deficit?

GOERING: I think the revenue from the Hermann Goering Works should have been used right away for investment.

Q: Chances are that they were operating on a deficit. Is that right without regard to further capital investment? And that I suppose is taking into consideration that many employees were slave laborers.

A: I stated that probably during the war the Hermann Goering Works worked on an operating deficit.

Q: We have 31 billion tax receipts, we have 2 or 3 billion receipts for Gemeinden and no tax receipts for Laender. That makes tax receipts of about 33 billion-6 billion non-tax revenue. Does expenditure include service on the public debt?

A: Yes.

A 094336

Q: How much is service on the public debt including retirement of debt?

A: You get the wrong picture if you include in public expenditures the repayment of short term papers which are later issued anew.

Q: I want the figure of interest and amortization on the public debt.

A: Interest and amortization amount to about 12 billion a year.

Q: In 1944 you had income of about 42 billion RM, expenditure for Governmental functions plus interest and amortization about 112 billion. Is that right?

A: In the sum of 100 billion, debt service of 10 to 12 billion was included.

Q: You then had a deficit of 58 billion. You were able to meet current expenditure only to the extent of 42%. Is that correct?

A: That is probably true.

Q: This is for the fiscal year ending April 1944. Will the deficit be larger or smaller for the year ending 1945?

A: It will be greater. Tax income in the beginning was the same but decreased later on, a total of perhaps 28 billion for the current year.

Q: Will there be a deficit of 85 billion?

A: At least. During the last year the increase in public debt was about 7 billion a month. This is true probably until February.

Q: That monthly increase would be consistent with a deficit of about 85 billion.

A: This increase only started about the middle of the year.

Q: What was the increase of the public debt for the last month you know?

A: I think it was about 8 billion in February.

Q: 8 billion is a conservative guess, is it not?

A: Yes.

Q: Let's look at the Gemeinden. The Reich Government has ceased to exist. Can the Gemeinden raise sufficient taxes to take care of functions they would perform plus functions of the Reich which must be performed on communal level? Speaking now about the future.

FUNK: There is no doubt that they should be able to handle their own financing, since there are no big expenses for armament.

H3241-0102

H3241-0103

Q: What about the public debt?

A: Since there is no central tax collection, the question is how public debt will be paid, also pensions and contributions of the Reich to social security, and insurance and contributions to war victims, and also war damage to property. The matter then is that there is a permanent deficit in prospect. One should be able to cover public debt and pensions but it would be impossible to cover war damage.

Q: What about pensions to war victims and families of war victims?

A: This question can only be answered when we know what the public earning power will be, what debts will be paid, and what debts will be taken off the books.

Q: Make whatever assumptions that you find necessary, can you see any possibility other than a substantial deficit for the next 5 or 10 years?

GOERING: All great cities are completely destroyed so everything will have to be restored first.

KROSIGK: It is necessary to make a very definite destinction between what is necessary for reconstruction and payment for war damage on one side and the expenses for current expenditures on the other side.

Q: Do you hope to be able to make current expenditures from current receipts?

A: This could and should be possible if the economy is functioning, if the necessary number of workers are abailable and if the currency has a stabilized value corresponding to the actual situation.

Q: What will happen to currency, prices, and taxes?

A: I was asked in the beginning if the gemeinden could take care of their own expenses through revenue and this is only possible under the conditions given. If these conditions do not exist, this will not be possible. The question was if the gemeinden could meet their own expenses and additional expenses taken over from the Reich and under this condition it would be possible to make expenditure and revenue balance. The most important tax has always been the income tax. So long as it is not known what the income will be it is impossible to say what the tax revenue will be.

Q: Can you see any possibility other than a large permanent deficit?

A: If these conditions do not exist, I don't see any possibility to avoid a deficit.

Q: What do you say, Funk?

FUNK: It depends how far the level of living can be decreased.

A 034438

Q: How far can the level of living go down?

FUNK: The people that have lived through the collapse must know that they will live in poverty. Every possible means of production still in existence must be used, and everybody will have to be satisfied with the least possible means of existence. An inflation must be prevented by all means and in order to do that a strong authority must exist, because that is what was missing in Greece. Between 20 and 25 million inhabitants don't have anything except what they carry around with themselves. There will have to be a dividing of property between these and the others who still possess something. This can only be done with a central authority looking after the monetary and economic problems. If this authority exists there will also be strength from below to start building up Germany again and get Germany going again.

Q: Do you (Goering) have anything to say?

GOERING: If the whole of Europe has to be built up first before Germany can be rebuilt, reparations will be impossible. Nothing can be taken from a place where there is nothing. If Germany is supposed to repair Europe, there will have to be certain repairs at home first.

Q: Reichsmarshal , what do you have to suggest to prevent inflation?

GOERING: There remains the great difficulty that Germany is divided, that there exist the Russian, American, English and French Zones and all plans are only made for those regions. No suggestion can be made unless there are definite assumptions. There must be laws about price control; but if people are going hung these laws will not be enforceable, and the inevitable outcome will be communism.

Q: Do you (Krosigk) have anything to say?

A: It always comes to the question if there can be unified monetary policies and this is only possible if there is one central power. This is the only way to prevent inflation.

FUNK: Inflation can be prevented if the food supply is guaranteed and the people can go on working. We have to consider that four-fifths of the agr surplus regions are under Russian occupation. If under the condition that there is enough food, the buying power of everybody is large enough to satisfy his needs and that of his family, then the monetary question is only a question of authority. If a minimum existence as far as food is concerned is guaranteed and if the German people are able to work then there should not be any possibility of inflation, provided that there exists a central authority who keeps order and discipline. Under these conditions it is of no importance at what level the prices will be fixed - low or high. The problem of inflation under those conditions is only a technical question.

A031739

H3241-0104

H3241-0105

KROSIGK: I agree with what Funk had to say, but I want to add that even now we have had a very complicated system of financial equalization between the Reich and Gemeinden and among the various Gemeinden, and it will be impossible to let the Gemeinden take over the expenses of the Reich without an increased system of equalization, But if such a system of equalization exists, it would have to be centralized and we would have the whole system again of centralized finance.

Q: Would you say that the first step to save Germany from inflation is centralized financial control?

GOERING: The main basis of the German financial structure was a system of equalization and at this moment there exist such large differences between the different Gemeinden that a system of equalization is absolutely necessary, at least within a certain part of the country.

FUNK: I think that the Gemeinden will have to be of greater importance than before, but even so a central financial structure is necessary to safeguard reconstruction.

Q: Do I then understand that the first step is a central financial authority for Germany and this authority will then take certain steps with reference to currency, taxes and expenditures, and wage and price control? Is that correct?

FUNK: Yes.

Q: What is the latest period for which you can tell me the total amount of the public debt - secret and public?

FUNK: The Reichsbank has given out long-term bonds for about 150 billion RM, short-term bonds between 160 and 170 billion RM and treasury bills about 120 billion RM.

Q: Then in all it is about 440 billion?

A: I think that 150 for long term bonds is correct. The short-term bonds and treasury bills together amount to about 250 billion, so in all approximately 400 billion.

FUNK: In April no more treasury bills were issued.

KROSIGK: The secret debt probably refers to the bills whose existence was not published in the quarterly reports. These bills were issued during the rearmament period. They are called Mefobills and amount to approximately 8 billion RM, but originally more.

Q: What sources of financing would a new central government have? It would have to continue to issue new currency, would it not?

FUNK: The first important thing will be to establish one means of payment. It is always dangerous to have two currencies running parallel and the military mark will have to be evaluated in terms of the German mark and exchanged.

Goering agrees. Krosigk agrees.

A 03910

H3241-0106

Q: After you have a central authority, how will it finance itself? What can it do besides issue new currency?

FUNK: A central administration could only exist under the military system. A central administration in organizing the financial structure of the region has to see that prices and wages are stabilized. It would be necessary for the public financial need to issue state financial bills which have to be covered by taxes. These state financial bills could be discounted at a low discount rate by the Reichsbank. The Reichsbank would then give the public banks means of payment. The military mark would be the only currency.

Q: What is the Reichsbank going to pay out?

A: New currency.

Q: You are going to withdraw the German Reichsmarks and Rentenmarks and reduce that from 60 billion (amount in circulation) to about 4 or 5 billion in Allied Military Marks, Is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Then the German government needs money for the month. Certificates are brought into the Reichsbank for discount. The payment is new money. The deficit of the German government will be around 5, 6 or 7 billion each month, and it will keep going up?

FUNK: The Reichsbank issues money only on the following basis, against state financial bills which are covered completely by taxes and other revenues. The Reichsbank issues money against bills of exchange of the economy. Bills of exchange can only be issued by businessmen and companies provided that they are backed by real business assignments. Currency in circulation will be exchanged for military marks. Since the total amount of currency that will be required for the region is not yet known, an artificial exchange rate, for example, 1 to 10 will have to be used. Since even in this case there would be too many notes incirculation the amount that can be exchanged has to be limited for individuals. Business enterprises are able to issue bills of exchange depending on the scale of their business. Big accounts can only be used after it has been determined how much is ailable on the current side of the bank. This is a mere technical process until it can be determined of how much the national income consists and also how much the national debt represents.

Q: What was the German national income for 1938 and later years?

FUNK: In 1938 approximately 80 billion marks, with a regular increase every year to 130 billion marks in 1943. No estimate for 1944.

Q: I want you three to tell me the facts under which Schacht left the Reichsbank?

FUNK: The best informant is Krosigk.

A03941

H3241-0107

(Krosigk-Goering-Funk)

KROSIGK: At the end of January 1939 treasury bills had to be paid in the amount of 200 million marks. In the case that I should not have enough money to pay these bills I asked the President of the Reichsbank to put at my disposal a Reichsbank credit, as this had been customary at the end of every month during the past. During the first days of every month tax money would come in with which this credit of the Reichsbank could be paid back. In this particular case Schacht refused to give me this customary credit and told me to go to Hitler if I wanted to and tell him that the Reich was practically bankrupt. I did not go myself but Funk1/, who was present, went to see the Fuhrer. Lateron it turned out that the credit was not needed, since enough cash money was available to settle the obligation.

FUNK: At the moment I was in Italy for trade negotiations but was called back to Germany to see Hitler and there met Reinhardt (Assistant to Krosigk in the Ministry of Finance) who had explained the facts to the Fuhrer. Matters were not further discussed, but the Fuhrer asked me if I would want to take over the job as President of the Reichsbank. I answered that I would have to think matters over since I was not a specialist in bank matters. Hitler told me to choose the best specialists from the banking world as helpers to enable me to takeover the job. I mentioned that I had succeeded Schacht already once as Minister of Economics and that I had a difficult enough job. But the Fuhrer told me that the job as President of the Reichsbank in his opinion was even more important and that he would prefer that I take both jobs at the same time. The next morning Schacht was called to the Fuhrer and dismissed. In the evening I called up the Reichsmarshall and asked him if he had anything to do with my appointment as President of the Reichsbank and he said, yes, he had talked about the matter with the Fuhrer. Therefore, I took over the job and selected my assistants, among others Puhl, who was a well known man in the field of foreign exchange.

GOERING: Schacht retired from the Ministry of Economics in November 1937 because of differences with the Four Years' Plan.

Q: What were there differences about?

A: He would not cooperate.

Q: Was he perhaps more in favor of consumers' goods than putting all Germany's wealth in armament?

GOERING: That was not the reason. I think that the refusal to give this customary credit mentioned above was intentional, to provoke differences with the Fuhrer which would lead to his dismissal. In the beginning Schacht and the Fuhrer were very close, but in the course of time they got apart and the Fuhrer wanted to get rid of Schacht. Schacht also had differences with Darré, the Minister of Food, and the Fuhrer had to intervene.

1/ This statement was immediately denied by Funk.

A 6344-12

H3241-0108

Q: Did Schacht retain any governmental position after his dismissal as President of the Reichsbank?

GOERING: Reichsminister.

Q: Did he have any functions?

GOERING: He remained minister without portfolio.

Q: Were there any cabinet meetings he attended?

GOERING: There were no cabinet meetings at that time.

Q: Then it was purely honorary?

GOERING: Practically.

FUNK: Schacht, after his dismissal, kept an office in the Reichsbank, where he worked on statistical data of the Reichsbank and where he still kept in touch with me every now and then.

Q: How long did this last?

FUNK: This lasted until Schachts dismissal as Minister.

Q: When was that?

FUNK: Probably in 1943.

Q: What was the reason for that dismissal?

FUNK: On the basis of some accusations from Himmler. As far as I know he was arrested after the 20th of July.

Q: Was he under detention until after the collapse of Germany?

GOERING: Yes. I have met a person here who has been together with Schacht in the concentration camp and who told me that Schacht was released and sent to Capri where he was taken by the Americans and brought to Paris.

Q: Until his dismissal in 1943 as Reichsminister, presumably Schacht had access to all important statistical facts pertaining to German monetary policy. Is that right?

FUNK: Yes.

Q: After his arrest in July 1944 did he continue to receive statistical publications from the Reichsbank?

FUNK: While under arrest he asked for statistical material which was sent to him by me but authorities would not let the material pass.

Q: What do you think Schacht will think of your plan for currency conversion?

FUNK: I wouldn't know. We worked together on monetary problems in 1923 and agreed on most points until in 1924 Schacht made very severe reductions in credit contrary to my ideas, but later on we were on good terms again.

H3241-0109

Q: Do you remember the "crystalweek"?

FUNK: I originated that expression.

Q: What was it?

FUNK: That was during my first year in the Ministry of Economics. During that time there had been frequent requests from the Propaganda Ministry under Goebbels to close Jewish businesses since they represented a point of anger for the papulation. I did not comply with these requests. Then on the 8th of November word was sent from Munich to destroy Jewish businesses and to take over Jewish property.

Q: Who issued this order?

FUNK: As far as I know it originated with Dr. Goebbels, who was at a meeting in Munich at that time. It was when the whole Party was assembled in Munich for celebrations on the 9th of November. When we saw the next day the wild excesses, including destruction of important department stores and also received similar reports from the provinces, the Reichsmarshal called together a meeting in Berlin of all . uleiters and disapproved very strongly of what had happened.

Q: Your stories don't jive with the laws you signed.

GOERING: After the meeting of the Gauleiters I went to the Fuhrer, but the orders came from the Fuhrer and I had to write up those laws.

Q: There are laws you three signed on November 12 and November 21. They are the most despicable legislation of recent times. What do you have to say?

GOERING: Things happened as I told you. Orders from the Fuhrer.

KROSIGK: I can only condemn the happenings of the crystal week. Goering told us that the unlawful procedure was supposed to be replaced by lawful procedure and that the Fuhrer had ordered that the Jews were supposed to pay 1 billion marks. When I wrote the laws this money was supposed to be collected and I thought that after the payment of this sum all procedure would end.

Q: Are you ashamed of your signature on this legislation?

A: Not in the light of those days, but looking back now, yes.

Q: You lost the war, is that the main reason?

A: When we enacted that legislation we thought that these laws would end all unlawful procedure by putting specific laws in their place.

Q: Organized injustice is better than random injustice. Is that what you're saying? Do you know what the whole world was saying? On April 15, 1943 and again on July 1st you signed more laws. You did this almost every year.

What have you (Funk) got to say?

A 03-344

H3241-0110

FUNK: I have condemned the procedure against the Jews very severely and in writing the legislation I have tried to give the Jews compensation in return for what was taken from them. I tried in vain to let the Jews keep their assets.

Q: How many printing presses are there for the printing of German currency?

FUNK: The main printing press, the Reichs printing press, was at Berlin. There was a Reichsbank printing press at Vienna. There were other printing presses at Witzenhausen near Kassel. There was one at Zwickau and one at Reichenbach. When later on enormous quantities of currency were needed, some private presses were used in Berlin.

Q: Where were the mints located?

A: The main mint was at Berlin but when it was bombed out completely the main work was done in Dresden. There were some mints at Munich and Stuttgart.

Q: Is that all?

A: There is one at Muldenhuetten. There was one at Karlsruhe, but in the last years it has scarcely been used but there are facilities there. There is also one in Hamburg.

Q: I have another one on my list. Where is the third one?

A: I cannot remember everything from memory.

Q: You have been Minister of Finance since 1932. I have caught each one of you in falsehoods today and you know it.

GOERING: You ask questions which we have to answer without supporting statistical data. Questions which maybe important for you are unimportant for the Germans especially with the war going on and it is difficult to remember any statistical data from memory.

Q: Yes, I agree that you have more serious matters on your mind. Things that are very important to you.

A: After all, I am not as dumb as to try to hide things which were very well known.

Q: Funk, in your written statement you said you saved France from inflation. How was that?

FUNK: I succeeded in not having the franc inflated and also obtained a decree from the Reichsmarshal forbiddin huge purchases on the black market and in this way left France in a much better state than it would have been otherwise. Not a single month went by when I did not receive suggestions to inflate the franc or to abolish it completely. I introduced a short-term paper policy in France which so far had not been known there before to draw surplus money out of circulation and I received thanks from the directors of French banks for this innovation.

A034945

H3241-0111

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
26 June 1945

Q: I want to know about the personnel of the Reichsbank as it existed in March or April 1945. Who was your chief assistant?

A: Vice-President Puhl.

Q: Was Puhl a Nazi?

A: No, but he entered the party after it had come to power.

Q: When did he enter the party?

A: I assume that members of the Directorium entered the party during the first months after the rise to power. Either under Luther or under Schacht.

Q: Is Puhl a very capable man?

A: I must say that Puhl is known throughout the world in the matter of foreign exchange and gold. That's why I let him handle foreign exchange and gold almost independently. Puhl has acted for the Reichsbank abroad in Switzerland, Sweden, and also in Italy and Hungary.

Q: What about relations with territory occupied by German troops?

A: In the occupied areas the Reichsbank did not work itself, but there were representatives at the military HQ and with the Reichkommissars, unless our representatives were in the National Banks as in Paris and in Brussels. As far as these businesses were treated as foreign business they fell into the field of Wilhelm and Puhl.

Q: Was Wilhelm under Puhl or equal to Puhl?

A: Puhl was General Manager.

Q: How many members were there in the Directorium?

A: Besides Puhl there was Vice-President Kurt Lange from the Office of the 4 Years' Plan and from the Ministry of Economics, Director Kretzschmann.

Q: Who were strong party members besides Lange?

A: Emde possibly was an old party member in charge of organization. Bayrhoffer was the connecting link with the Ministry Of Finance.

Q: Who gave instructions to various branches of the Reichsbank to the fact that important officers and members of the bank should be members of the Nazi party?

A: Lange. There was a general regulation by the party that members could not be promoted to important jobs unless they were party members. That was valid for all offices.

Q: When was that regulation put into effect?

A: 1935 or 1936.

Q: Were any bank directors removed from the branches of the Reichsbank because they refused to become members of the Nazi Party?

A: I don't remember such a case but there have been cases where

A 034946

directors of branches of the Reichsbank had difficulties with the local party organization and the organization requested that they be moved to a different location. Policy concerning Reichsbank personnel was handled by Lange, an old Nazi.

Q: In visiting some of these banks they have told us in certain cases they were instructed not to become members of the party.

A: I don't know who could have given such an order.

Q: In general are the Reichsbank employees below the office of director capable personnel?

A: Of course, I don't know the lower officials of the bank but very able officials get to the top.

Q: Do you think it is possible that branches of the Reichsbank could be operated by the employees below the rank of director?

A: As far as small branch offices are concerned I think this would be possible, but I don't think that one could take the responsibility for regional branch offices.

A031947

2828-PS

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF LAMMERS
26 June 1945

Q: You were Reichsminister and Chief of Reichschancellary. Is that right?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have anything to do with devisen?

A: I was in charge of a small account of foreign exchange for the Fuhrer. This acount amounted to approximately 75 thousand dollars which was deposited in the Reichsbank. The account was in my name but I attached a paper to the front of the account book indicating that this money belonged to the Fuhrer. This money consisted of gifts from abroad containing among other things, a gift from the United States amounting to 60 thousand dollars which were never used. There is a paper specifying from whom the gifts came. The book and the paper were given to a Doctor Fisher of the United States Army in Augsburg. The names of the donors are in the papers.

Q: What other devisen sources did the Fuhrer have?

A: Otherwise the Fuhrer did not request foreign exchange from me, except that in some cases requests were handed to the officials under me to pay for certain purchases of objects of art which were processed in the regular way through permits from the Ministry of Economics.

Q: Did the Fuhrer own any property abroad?

A: None that I know of. I never administered private property of the Fuhrer. That was done by Bormann.

A-034-018

SECRET

H3241-0113

2828-PS

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF FUNK

26 June 1945 (Evening)

Q: It is reported that most Nazi leaders generally have very substantial accounts abroad. What can you tell us on that subject?

A: Nothing.

Q: When did you realize that Germany was going to lose the war?

A: It is very difficult to come to the conclusion that one's country would lose the war but I began to doubt seriously Germany could win the war as soon as America entered the war. In the summer of 1943 I had many discussions with Hitler and I told Hitler about the production of the United States, but Hitler cut me short and said all that was bluff.

Q: Did you have any doubts before the summer of 1943?

A: During the time of big military victories I never believed in final victory, but I always thought that on a basis of those successes there would be negotiation for a final settlement.

Q: When did Germany's industrialists begin to doubt the outcome of the war?

A: In general the people were very careful not to say anything about that since it was very dangerous, but friends I had known for 25 years in economics began to have their doubts since America entered the war.

Q: Who were they?

A: Voegler in Vereinigte Stahlwerke. When America entered the war and we were threatened I talked to Schacht about it.

Q: Would Schacht make a good Reichsbank president?

A: I can say yes with very good conscience. I have known him for over 25 years and have always held him in great esteem. I also know that Schacht never said anything bad about me, even though he knew that I was not a specialist.

Q: What were the industries which you represented in your negotiations with the Nazi Party in 1931?

A: Represented is not the word. It would be better to say, which circle of industrial people urged me to enter the Nazi Party. Especially those from the minign industry Knepper in the coal industry. Kellerman, Voegler, Tengelmann, Diehn, Rosterg, also some businessman from banking contingents such as Fisher, Reinhardt, from insurance companies Schmidt, Hilgard, Winterfold,-(Siemens), Poensgen (United Steel Works), Duisberg (I. G. Farben), Kastl, Herle (Reichs Association of Industry)

Q: Who, besides you and Schacht were negotiating with industry for support of the Nazi Party prior to 1933?

A: Secretary of State Keppler. He worked in the Cologne area with Schroeder. Heinrichbauer in the Ruhr industry (Essen). That's all.

Q: What form of cooperation did the businessmen take? Did they give you money, advertising or what?

A: As all other parties, the Nazi Party was supported with money by the industrialists. In contrast to other parties, I don't think that it was much more than a couple of million.

A 034349

SECRET

H3241-0114

282805

SECRET

INTERROGATION OF FUNK
26 June 1945 (Evening)

Q: About 1933 we have been informed that certain industrialists attended a meeting in the home of Goering before the election in March. Do you know anything about this?

A: I was at the meeting. Money was not demanded by Goering but by Schacht. Hitler left the room, then Schacht made a speech asking for money for the election. I was only there as an impartial observer, since I was friendly with the industrialists.

Q: Was this the first meeting of this kind that you attended?

A: Concerning money, this was the first.

Q: Who was present when Schacht made the speech?

A: Kauert, the nephew of Kildorf, Tengelmann, Winterfeld, Schnitzler, (I.G. Farben) and quite a big circle that I don't remember very well.

Q: How many such meetings were there in 1933?

A: I know only about this one.

Q: Have you attended any other meetings at any later time?

A: There was no other one that I know of.

Q: When you said that devisen and gold in Germany were 500 million what price did you fix on the gold per kilogram?

A: 3,000 marks, the regular price per kilo.*

Q: What value did you place on the mark in giving us figures on Germany's foreign exchange?

A: The official price - 2.25 per dollar.

* = The actual price was 2,784 marks, according to Thoms, in charge of the precious metals department of the Reichsbank.

A094960

SECRET

H3241-0115

H3241-0115A

2828-P5

H3241-0116

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 22 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 2818-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-654 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3241-0117

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 2828-PS No. USA-654 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Paul Joosten

Nuremberg, 6 July 1948

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H-3241

EXHIBIT U.S.A. 654 (2828-PS)

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

654

(2828-PS)

A 094036

H3241-0118

3

H3241-0119

112 pages